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KENT ON SUNDAY

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Donation accusations spark candidates' war of words

CASH ROW IN 'SUPER MARGINAL' KEY SEAT

Picture: M HOLLAND

BIG HITTER: Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer George Osborne visited the key Gillingham and Rainham seat

A POLITICAL squabble has already broken out in the Kent seat considered by both Labour and the Conservatives as the tightest in the country.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

With a majority of just 15 votes, current Labour transport minister Paul Clark faces a difficult task in retaining the Gillingham and Rainham 'super-marginal' which Tory candidate Rehman Chishti hopes to wrestle from his grasp.

Big hitters from both the major parties have visited the Medway constituency, underlining the key role Kent's marginal seats will play in the General Election.

And the mud-slinging has already begun, with Mr Clark accusing Mr Chishti of benefiting from controversial donations made by the Conservatives' deputy chairman Lord Ashcroft.

In return, Mr Chishti – who denies having received even a penny from the 'non-dom' billionaire – says Mr Clark is in the pockets of the trade unions, having received "tens of thousands of pounds" from Unite.

According to figures obtained from the Electoral Commission, the Gillingham and Rainham Tory office received almost £16,000 from Lord Ashcroft's Bearwood Corporate Services firm between April, 2004, and April, 2005.

However, Mr Chishti – who was selected as a prospective Parliamentary candidate in July, 2007 – says Mr Clark is clutching at straws by republishing the information.

"He's scraping the bottom of the barrel with these accusations and I would ask him to retract them because I've never received anything from Lord Ashcroft," he said.

"We, as a constituency office, have been very active in raising our own funds, so

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

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Candidates cash row in 'super-marginal' seat

FROM FRONT PAGE

we've had no need to get them from anywhere else. Before Mr Clark makes baseless accusations he should come clean and reveal how much he has been given by Unite since 1997.

"I understand he's received tens of thousands of pounds, which shows he is in the pockets of the trade unions."

Lord Ashcroft – who lives in Belize and does not have to pay full tax in this country – donates cash to Tory central office, which distributes it to branches across the country.

Mr Clark said: "Whether or not they're still indirectly receiving his money through central office grants is a matter for Mr Chishti.

"But as far as me receiving grants from Unite, at least their members pay tax in this country."

Next month's General Election will see slightly altered political boundaries in Kent, meaning some residents who voted for Mr Clark in 2005 and helped him gain a 254 majority will now vote in neighbouring constituencies.

It has been worked out that had the new boundaries existed five years ago and everybody had voted the same way, Mr Clark would have only beaten then-Tory candidate Tim Butcher by 15 votes.

PAUL CLARK

REHMAN CHISHTI

The figure represents a stark contrast to when Mr Clark was first elected 13 years ago, when he wrested a massive 16,500 majority away from Tory James Couchman to win by more than 2,000 votes.

The importance of the constituency has not been lost on either party, with Prime Minister Gordon Brown visiting on the day he announced the General Election, followed by Tory finance spokesman George Osborne days later.

And on Thursday, Secretary of State for Transport Lord Adonis also came to town to offer his backing to Mr Clark. Tory leader David Cameron also gave a speech in Gillingham earlier this year.

Mr Clark said: "I will rightly have to work hard for every single vote and to make sure I convince people I'm the right man for the job.

"I hope my record of 13 years as an MP and eight years before that on the old Gillingham Borough Council will show how passionate I am about this area."

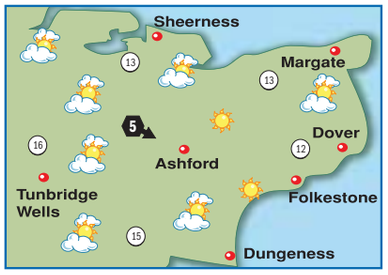
Mr Chishti – who was close friends with the assassinated former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto – told Kent on Sunday that Gillingham and Rainham wanted change.

He said: "The feeling I get on the streets is that people want change. They're fed up with Paul Clark and his party. This is my home and I want what's best for it. I want to be a strong voice for my community."

The other candidates in the constituency are Lib Dem Andrew Stamp, Green Trish Marchant, Independent George Meegan, Ukip's Robert Oakley, English Democrat Dean Lacey, and the BNP's Brian Ravenscroft.

• *See pages 10-13 for more election coverage.*

Kent today



TODAY: Once any early local mist patches clear, it will be fine and dry with lots of sunshine and only a few patches of cloud. Light north-westerly winds. Max temp 13-16C (55-61F). **TONIGHT:** Dry with clear spells. However, mist or fog patches may form in places. Min temp 2-5C (36-41F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	showers	7	45	London	fair	17	63
Belfast	fair	10	50	Liverpool	fair	12	54
Birmingham	fair	14	57	Manchester	fair	12	54
B'mouth	fair	16	61	Newcastle	fair	9	48
Bristol	sun	13	55	Norwich	fair	14	57
Cardiff	fair	15	59	Oxford	sun	16	61
Cork	cloudy	11	52	Southsea	sun	16	61
Edinburgh	cloudy	9	48	S'hampton	fair	16	61
Glasgow	fair	9	48	Southport	fair	11	52
Isle of Man	fair	10	50	Swansea	fair	13	55
Leeds	fair	11	52	Torquay	sun	14	57

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5.53am	Sunset	7.57pm	Lighting up times:
Moonrise	7.33am	Moonset	12.03am	7.57pm to 5.51am

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	01.37	6.5	14.02	6.3	02.16	6.3	14.46	6.2
Margate	02.53	4.6	15.05	4.4	03.32	4.6	15.45	4.3
St Mary's	07.42	5.3	20.00	5.3	08.23	5.1	20.42	5.1

Week ahead

monday Sunny spells. max 15C min4C

thursday Lots of sun. max 16C min 4C

tuesday Dry and bright. max 14C min 4C

friday Variable cloud. max 16C min 5C

wednesday Fine and sunny. max 14C min 4C

saturday Sunny periods. max 17C min 5C

County Hall reboots internet TV services

DIGITAL services at County Hall are getting a £250,000 revamp just months after the controversial Kent TV internet channel was axed, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

And county councillors have admitted some of that money will be spent on a video channel, allowing the public to watch film clips promoting council services.

This is despite Kent TV – which cost taxpayers £1.8 million – attracting just 2,500 hits a day. Plans were unveiled at a scrutiny committee meeting by Cllr Roger Gough, cabinet member for performance management.

The Tory councillor said the money would be spent on improving the events listing What's On, 'enhancing democracy', promoting tourism and building on webcast services.

The new project, called Kent Digital Services, comes after a relaunch of the authority's website last year, which cost almost £277,000.

Cllr Gough said the service was essential to ensure KCC remains interactive with residents.

"We have a fixed budget for this," he said. "If we want additional support or services we have £100,000 to commission work, but the net budget for this project is £250,000.

"Digital services are needed. It will provide enhanced videos, which are not such good quality on the kent.gov website. It will also build on the existing webcast and promote tourism and services."

But Labour leader Cllr Leslie Christie, who opposed Kent TV, said he wants to see more detailed plans. "Digital is here and that's a fact of life," he said. "But I want to see more details to ensure this £250,000 isn't wasted like the money used on Kent TV."

Indulgence

Cllr Jeremy Kite, Tory representative for Dartford Rural, said the authority must be careful not to create a Kent TV Mark II.

He said: "With Kent TV there was a little bit of indulgence and mistakes were made. We don't want to find ourselves in that position again, although I'm satisfied we're moving in the right direction.

"Kent Digital Services looks more balanced, but we must make sure it doesn't get out of kilter."

Cllr Kite said it was important the new service was what people in Kent wanted.

"We need to talk to people and find out what they need," he said. "Digital services are important, especially for KCC, which is one of the biggest local authorities.

"If there is a school closure or problems with roads, people need to know. What we don't want to do is try to compete with commercial TV channels. We've seen we can't compete with that."

KCC kept ownership of material created by Kent TV and this may be used on the planned Kent Digital Service web channel.

Kent TV, run by Bob Geldof's Ten Alps production company, was launched in 2007 with the intention of being self-funded through advertising.

But the station only made £10,000 in its first seven months and a further £350,000 had to be invested on top of the £1.4m cost of the initial trial.

The station was scrapped in February after KCC unsuccessfully put out a new contract for firms to manage the website. None of the applicants was able to do so without funding.

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Bid to end dispute over TV veteran's unfair dismissal claim

BBC's last-ditch talks target Clark tribunal

By **JON COATES**
jon.coates@kosmedia.co.uk

BBC bosses are due to hold talks with news presenter Geoff Clark tomorrow in a last-ditch bid to resolve their dispute over his controversial sacking.

The former South East Today frontman is taking the corporation to an employment tribunal for unfair dismissal. It is due to start on Thursday, April 29.

But in an effort to settle the row and avoid the publicity associated with a lengthy legal battle, BBC chiefs are due to sit down with Mr Clark on Monday for conciliation talks.

When asked about the format of the talks and who will be present, a spokeswoman would only say: "The BBC does not discuss staffing or contractual issues."

Popular presenters Mr Clark and Beverley Thompson were left "fuming and hurt" after their shock removal from presenting BBC South East's primetime weekly news show last year.

They were told their partnership would end just minutes after coming off air on a Wednesday night in June, which stunned colleagues at the studios in Tunbridge Wells.

Contract expired

In the wake of the decision, union bosses voiced concern the pair were being removed because of their age. BBC chiefs denied this, but after taking legal advice Mr Clark, 63, filed a claim for unfair dismissal against his former employer.

He quit the corporation when his contract expired in October and Mrs Thompson, who was allowed to remain with BBC South East in a different capacity, decided to leave of her own accord in September.

Rob Smith and Polly Evans became the new faces of the programme, which runs after the 6pm national news every weekday.

A source at the station said at the time: "Everyone is stunned. Geoff will be particularly upset by this decision. He left Meridian in 2004 to come here and did wonders to our viewing figures. Now they're just tossing him away."

A National Union of Journalists spokesman at the BBC said he was "deeply concerned this is to do with ageism" and viewers deluged the station and local media with complaints over the axing.

He added: "It's incredible, when you consider the new line-up are half the combined age of Geoff and Bev."

The BBC angrily denied the claims, or that Mr Clark was released due to cutbacks.

A spokeswoman said: "This has nothing to do with age at all. It's part of a shift towards making the programme more journalism focused. And it's definitely not about cost-cutting."

Four years earlier, Mr Clark nearly died after a severe case of pneumonia. Only a life-saving operation at Guy's Hospital in London saw him pull through.

MAKING NEWS: Geoff Clark started tribunal proceedings against the BBC after his dismissal from the South East Today show

Road to repair

POTHOLES on Kent's minor roads are to be targeted by an army of specialist tarmac companies over the next three months.

Each district will have its own dedicated team of workers who will repair the damage caused by the recent cold snap on a 'find and fix' basis. Kent Highway Services has already filled more than 45,300 potholes since the start of the year, thanks to a £2 million Government cash injection.

Call 08458 247800 to report a fault.

Black-tie dinner

HEROES will be honoured at a black-tie awards dinner marking the 20th anniversary of the Kent Air Ambulance.

Fundraisers for the charity will be among those recognised in six categories at the event at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on May 8.

Chief executive John Tickner said: "The people of Kent have for many years supported us, and this is our chance to thank some of them."

Tickets are £40 and include a three-course meal. Call 01622 833833.

To see this clip search 'college'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

St Nicholas Primary School pupils in New Romney experience life and work at South Kent College

Iceland's leaders 'not to blame' for bank fiasco

COUNTY Hall's finance chief has defended the Icelandic government after a report into the nation's banking collapse accused senior officials of "negligence".

Kent County Council had £50 million of taxpayers' money tied up in the crisis-hit system when it fell apart in late 2008, but Cllr John Simmonds says the criticism levelled at those in charge of it at the time was harsh.

The report by Iceland's Special Investigation Commission said more should have been done to limit the damage to the nation of the collapse of its biggest banks, specifically criticising former Prime Minister Geir Haarde and several of his financial gurus.

Cllr Simmonds, KCC's cabinet member for finance, said: "Again we dispute the word 'negligent'. Had our government not rushed in to save banks such as Northern Rock and the Royal Bank of Scotland, the same thing could have happened in this country.

"I think it's a harsh term to use. At the time we invested in Icelandic banks they all had good ratings from the ratings agencies, as did the British banks that came into trouble.

"The difference is the Icelandic government couldn't step in to help like the British government did because of the relative sizes of the economies."

The term "negligence" is a sore one for KCC after the authority was accused of it by the Audit Commission following the banking collapse. However, this was later downgraded to "careless" following legal threats from County Hall.

Of the £50m frozen in the Icelandic system, the UK-based Heritable Bank held £18m, Landsbanki £17m and Glitnir £15m.

Late last year Glitnir announced it was no longer regarding local councils as preferential creditors, but Cllr Simmonds described it as "nothing more than a hiccup" and that he still expected KCC to recover between 90 and 92 per cent of all the money invested.

So far the authority has received £6.5m back from Heritable, which will increase by about £1.5m per quarter until the majority of money tied up in the bank is returned.

Cllr Simmonds said: "It's slow but sure at the moment but I'm confident we will win our court case against Glitnir in the autumn."

He added that KCC now placed less emphasis on ratings agencies and made lower-risk investments.

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Care sector leaders unite to find ways to improve cash-strapped services

By **MARIJKE COX**

LEADERS in adult social care have discussed ways of transforming vital services in the face of massive financial challenges.

With crucial spending cuts needed to tackle the national £167 billion deficit outlined by Chancellor Alistair Darling last month, officials at County Hall have admitted the need for change.

At a conference, entitled Changing the Future Together, leaders from the public, private and voluntary sector looked at how to improve services despite the potential challenges faced by local authorities.

Oliver Mills, managing director of Kent Adult Social Services, said discussions were non-political, but addressed the economic uncertainties.

"The main thrust of the meeting was centred on how we will work to make the most of what we can in a changed financial position," he said.

"This includes using not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises, and making the most of the resources they have.

"We need to keep the focus on needs and what people want, and make sure we can provide this."

Social care for adults has been in the spotlight for the past two weeks after health secretary Andy Burham announced plans to launch a National Care Service in England, much like

the NHS, to help elderly and disabled people.

Initial proposals to charge a "death tax" of £20,000 on every person to fund it was scrapped by the Labour government and instead Mr Burnham said everyone would contribute towards it throughout their lives.

They would then be entitled to free care when they needed it in the future.

The system would mean an end to the current postcode lottery system, where councils set their own criteria to decide who qualifies for free care.

But with the General Election set for May 6 and future proposals uncertain, those working in the sector in Kent have outlined changes that need to be made regardless of political agendas.

Mr Mills said: "We looked at personalisation, which gives people choice and control over what care they receive. There are different packages designed for different people's needs. We also focused on technology, such as Telecare and Telehealth, which allow people to live independently, but with care on hand if they need it.

"There are some service ideas that come from Government policy, but we want to look at how to bring these home to real people to enable them to live their lives."

Trying to get more people to take up apprenticeships in social care as well as improving skills of staff involved were also considered.

Chairing the conference was Donna Francis, who suffers from dwarfism.

The 26-year-old is just 3ft 7ins and suffers from chronic pains in her joints.

She receives help from adult services at KCC, but says she continues to live an independent life.

"I have my own personal assistant who helps me with things I'm unable to do," she said.

"I still live my own life though; I work and can do a lot of things myself, but this personalised package means I get help where I need it."

Ms Francis said it was important for her to chair the conference as it gave an insight into the challenges faced by those needing social care.

"It's hard to come to terms with the fact that you need help, but with personalisation you can continue to live independently," she said.

Tops for business

KENT 2020 Vision, billed as the South East's number one business conference and exhibition, is tipped to be even bigger this year.

Some 350 exhibitors and 4,000 visitors attended last year's show, and the event on Thursday at the Kent Showground, Detling near Maidstone, will be boosted by celebrity speakers including entrepreneur and Dragons' Den star James Caan.

Entrance is free to delegates though they are advised to register beforehand at www.kent2020.co.uk.

Site on for walkers

A WEBSITE promoting guided walks in the county is now up and running.

The Explore Kent page allows people to find and book more than 1,000 different hikes and was launched to coincide with this year's Walking Festival.

The site also provides information for disabled and less-experienced ramblers.

Visit www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent.

To see this clip search 'lions'
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Port Lympne hid lions from the public's gaze to raise awareness about declining numbers

£1m tourism project is an entente cordiale

KENT and Calais are teaming up as part of the 2012 Olympics in a bid to welcome the world to the cross-Channel region, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

The new Greet the World project is being launched by tourism board Visit Kent alongside officials from the Nord Pas de Calais next week.

Chairwoman of Visit Kent Amanda Cottrell and Cllr Kevin Lynes, cabinet member for regeneration and economic development at Kent County Council, will announce the start of the scheme.

The programme will focus on major cultural and sporting events happening in Kent and Calais over the next three years, including the Olympics and Paralympics and the opening of Margate's long-awaited Turner Gallery.

Completion of the development, which is a celebration of artist JMW Turner's association with the town, is expected in 2011.

The new No1 Smithery at Chatham's Historic Dockyard with its museum and gallery is also a focus of the project.

And the opportunities of the high-speed rail link will be an ongoing theme throughout the three-year programme.

A spokeswoman at Visit Kent said there are three main aims of the scheme.

"To prepare the cross-Channel region to 'greet the world' and welcome visitors to the Olympic and Paralympic Games and other cultural and sporting events, as well as facilitating visits between Kent and Nord-Pas de Calais," she said.

"Secondly, to equip tourism professionals

FOCUS: Chatham's Historic Dockyard

with a better understanding of their area and an ability to welcome international visitors.

"And lastly, to engage the local community in the development of the destination."

Included in the project is Kent's Big Day Out, which sees thousands of free tickets to the county's tourist attractions distributed to residents.

The Greet the World scheme looks set to cost £1 million and is being funded by an EU grant. Partners involved are Visit Kent, KCC and the Comite Regional de Tourism Nord-Pa de Calais.

In January the leader of Pas-de-Calais county council Dominique Dupilet raised eyebrows when he boasted of his town's "Englishness" in an attempt to coax Olympic business to the French side of the Channel – 21 miles from Dover.

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PANDORA
UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

THE INTERVIEW

BY JANE CONNOLLY

Go off-road to discover thrill of two wheels

GET on your bike and learn how to take it off-road with Bedgebury's first-ever cycling coach, Ollie Ireland.

Since December, Ireland has been showing groups of cyclists how to cope with the extensive trails at the Bedgebury National Pinetum and Forest at Goudhurst.

From youth and school groups to people with learning and physical difficulties, Ireland shows them how to make the most of this wonderful resource.

"Basically, there are two elements to my role," Ireland, 33, said. "One is to give them access to the forest. Some groups come from London and are made up of people who possibly hardly ever get to see green spaces. For them, it's liberating. The groups I taught today often cycle here so I'm showing them off-road skills, like how to turn on loose surfaces."

For two days a week, Ireland teaches in inner city London, but for the rest of the working week he escapes to the country. His activities include holiday off-road skills clubs for children, and he might look at running sessions for individuals next year.

His role is the result of a partnership between a number of organisations, including the Forestry Commission, Bedgebury Forest Cycle Club and Tunbridge Wells Learning Disability Partnership.

A qualified CTC off-road cycle coach, Ireland discovered a love of mountain biking after spending a few years skiing abroad. On his return to the UK he was looking for something to give him an equivalent adrenalin rush and he found it on two wheels.

He is keen to encourage others to give it a try, particularly people who might think the thrill of mountain biking is not for them.

"Sometimes people can be a bit timid, especially when they are just used to riding on flat surfaces. But once they find they can control the bike they can relax and enjoy it."

Ireland believes it is particularly important to get children involved in cycling for a number of reasons.

"There is an access problem, particularly in London," he said. "Speaking to young people I discover that they find small woods where they can build jumps and trails, but they generally get knocked down by councils.

"There's a real demand and cycling is an alternative to traditional sports like football. It possibly targets children who would not be playing the team games and it's a great way to keep healthy."

As well as getting novices into the sport and attracting people to Bedgebury, Ireland would like to discover new mountain biking stars and nurture the talent of local riders.

"I would like to encourage the skills of the gifted and talented riders and possibly get them into competitions," he said.

"Bedgebury has beautiful forest – you can ride for 10 minutes and be miles away and see no-one, which is quite unique. It is close enough to London to access, but just far enough away to feel like you're in the country."

Find out more about Ollie Ireland's coaching sessions and summer holiday clubs online at www.forestry.gov.uk/bedgebury or email oliver.ireland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk.

LEADING WAY: Qualified off-road cycle coach Ollie Ireland wants to encourage cyclists to discover the joys and health benefits of mountain-biking at Bedgebury Pinetum

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Nuclear pressure builds up

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SENIOR Kent politicians have thrown their weight behind a campaign calling for a new nuclear power station at Dungeness.

County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter was among those who attended a presentation on Tuesday evening, during which he gave his support for plans to build a third reactor on the existing site.

The plans for Dungeness C were thrown into disarray late last year when the Government left it off a list of 11 potential locations where new nuclear power stations might be built.

More than 500 people are employed at Dungeness B, and campaigners fear the community will crumble if its main employer ceases to exist. Dungeness A is currently being decommissioned from use.

Tuesday's meeting was a joint venture between KCC and Shepway council, and was co-hosted by the latter's chairwoman Cllr Susan Carey.

She said: "EDF Energy told us the plant contributes £30 million to the local economy every year, so you can imagine what would happen if that came to an end.

"We would very much like to see a nuclear future for Dungeness, and I think everyone was shocked when it was left off the Government's list because it seems a no-brainer when we already have two reactors there.

"It was very encouraging to see at the meeting the level of support that exists for the plant, and Cllr Carter made it really clear that he sees this as a very important issue for Kent.

FUTURE: Campaigners are determined to see a Dungeness C built

"He gave us unequivocal support from KCC, which is brilliant news."

Had the site been approved, the new Dungeness C reactor would have seen about 2,000 workers employed during construction and a further 350 to 450 over a 60-year period.

The Government said it had left it off the shortlist due to the "adverse effect" it would have on the area's internationally unique ecosystem, this was based on advice from Natural England.

However, just days after the announcement, Prime Minister Gordon Brown revealed that Dungeness had not been completely ruled out as a possible location for a new nuclear power station.

"That gave us just a little bit of hope," said Romney Marsh county councillor William Richardson. "But nobody can understand why Dungeness was left off at all when we all thought it was going to be top of the list.

"Dungeness has already created a power station workforce and thousands of new homes have been built in New Romney and on St Mary's Bay as a result. If there wasn't a power station, they would have nowhere to work."

Tuesday's meeting was also attended by Dungeness B station director Graham Finn, who told the audience of about 100 invited guests that EDF had far from given up the fight.

He said: "We were disappointed to see Dungeness was not included in the draft National Policy Statement on nuclear energy.

"We agree with the Government's conclusion on the urgent need for substantial amounts of new low-carbon generation to be on stream by 2025, a significant proportion of which is expected to be met by nuclear power.

"However, we feel it is too early to rule out Dungeness' potential role as a site suitable for future low carbon.

"Furthermore, the existing power stations at Dungeness have proved to be good neighbours, as the local community have testified through their support for new build at the site."

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Rent arrears a costly error for dodgy director

CORRUPT property developer Julian Brealy (inset) thought he could influence planning applications by ignoring a Canterbury councillor's £36,000 rent arrears.

But the former millionaire thought wrong.

Brealy, 51, was jailed for 15 months by a judge at Maidstone Crown Court after a jury found him guilty of trying to corrupt Herne Bay Liberal Democrat councillor Roger Matthews.

Cllr Matthews hasn't paid rent since mid 2003, on a flat in Beltinge Road, Herne Bay, owned Brealy's company.

The pair were arrested after auditors reported Brealy to the police. The same jury acquitted Cllr Matthews last month.

Judge David Griffith-Jones QC said Brealy ignored the arrears because he hoped Cllr Matthews would influence planning applications in his favour.

Defence counsel Phillip Noble said Brealy had been sacked by Hollamby Estates, the property company he ran, and his removal from his post running Herne Bay Golf Club could result in 30 job losses.

He said Brealy donated two football pitches to a local school and worked for the golf club free of charge.

He said: "To put my client in prison will not help the community one iota."

Brealy was banned from holding a company directorship for five years and disqualified from standing for public office for the same period.

Outrage of speed camera chiefs as 'legal loophole' ad targets motorists

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

A LAW firm has apologised, but also defended, an advertising campaign that says its solicitors will use "legal loopholes" to get speeding motorists off the hook.

The controversial cartoon ad for My Brief based at Chatham Dockyard, has angered the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership.

It has run in local newspapers in Kent and features a florist's lorry from a company called Ian O'Scent being flashed by a roadside speed camera, and the driver getting a summons.

A tip from the driver's wife to call My Brief leads to a solicitor telling the driver: "Don't worry – let's see if there are any legal loopholes, and if not, I'll try to get you the best possible outcome."

The final cartoon frame shows the delighted driver and the lawyer outside court with the speeder declaring: "Thanks! What an excellent result!"

But the ad is "irresponsible" said the organisation that runs the speed cameras in the county, adding that it is "outraged".

Partnership spokeswoman Katherine Barrett said: "By adopting a cartoon strip approach it trivialises the issue of speeding and road safety.

"By suggesting that legal loopholes can be exploited to help motorists who are genuinely guilty of speeding to 'get away with it' is also rather distasteful. This simplistic approach to road safety ignores the fact speeding is a major contributor to accidents and personal injuries and deaths on the roads of Kent and Medway.

"The advert also portrays the driver as an innocent party, when in fact he has broken the law by driving too fast."

Mr Barrett said some 30,000 speeding tickets were issued to motorists across Kent and Medway in 2009, but despite this drivers are slowing down.

The Partnership said it has seen a 63 per cent reduction in the number of people killed or seriously injured across its yellow fixed safety camera sites and safety camera van sites since they were introduced.

Ms Barrett added: "That's 324 casualties that have been prevented. This is excellent news, but irresponsible adverts like this one only serve to undermine our attempts to encourage motorists that excessive speed is a killer."

Jeremy Betts runs the company, which says on its website: "We can vigorously investigate your case and see if the police have complied with the letter of the law."

Conviction

He has 15 years' experience in criminal law, and told KoS Media: "We apologise if our advert has caused offence. It was not our intention in running the campaign to upset any members of the public.

"We realise the valuable work that the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership undertake and do not in any way condone those motorists which clearly flout the law.

"The amount of convictions which are successful is a testament to the correct procedures which often take place.

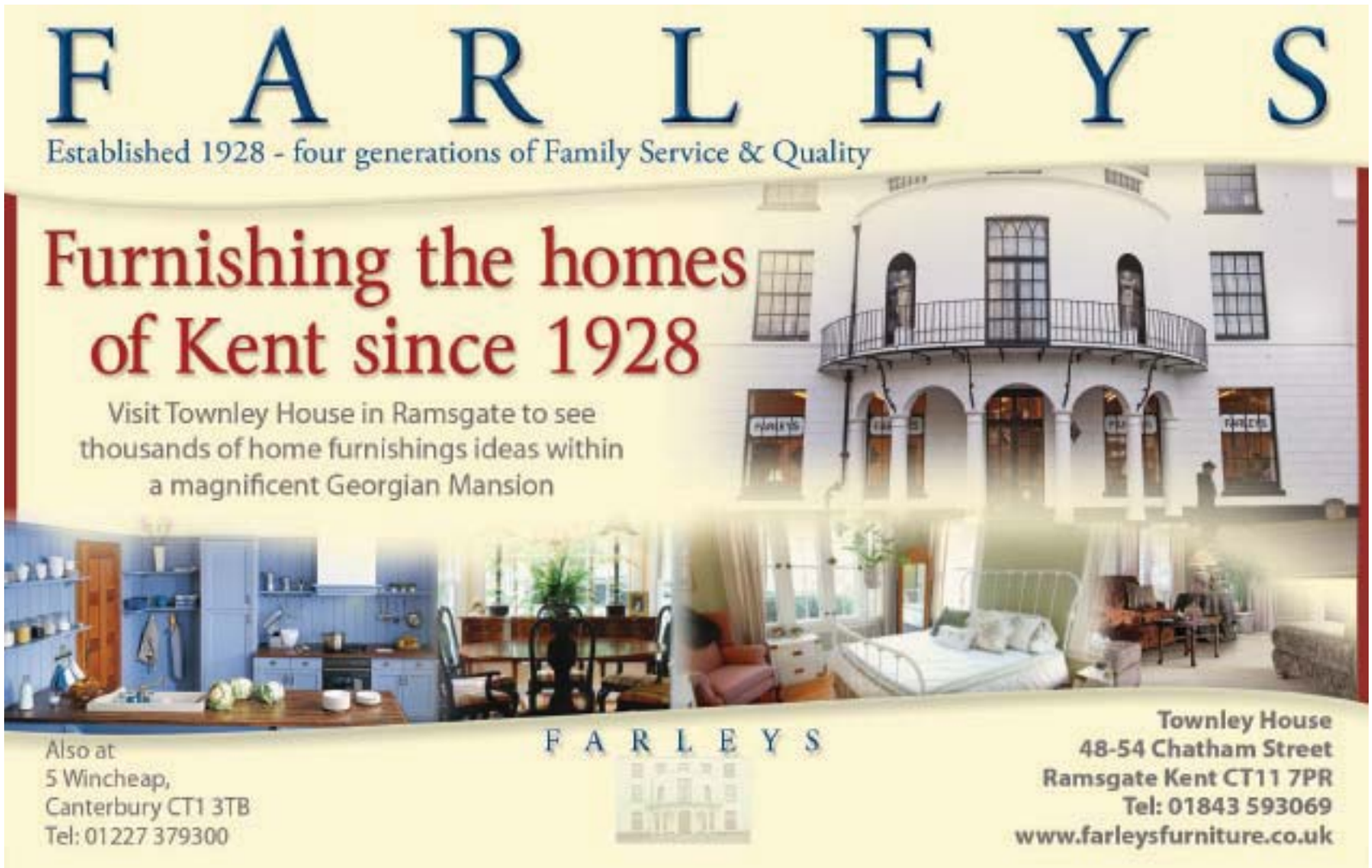
"However, it is everybody's right to ensure the evidence the prosecution put forward is sufficient to secure a conviction.

"In adopting the cartoon it was made clear that we do not only seek to ensure the prosecution have undertaken the necessary procedures, but also if the motorist is guilty we will still act on their behalf.

"The majority of motorist who are caught speeding normally lead law-abiding lives and are often very concerned when they receive a summons from the police. We try and reassure such people and assist them to get through this difficult time.

"Unfortunately, there have been occasions, although I am pleased to say not in Kent, where speeding equipment has proved to be faulty and motorists have been wrongly flashed even though they had been travelling under the limit.

"We have had positive feedback from some readers regarding our cartoon and our campaign has been running since mid December, 2009. We are in the process of reviewing our marketing and will take in to account the views which some members of the public have expressed. We apologise for any offence caused."



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GENERAL ELECTION MAY 6, 2010 Two top Conservatives brought

Osborne offers backing to

By **MATHEW BEECH**

SENIOR Tory George Osborne visited Medway on Monday to back the campaigns of the three Conservative parliamentary candidates and voice his support for small businesses.

The Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer made brief stops in Gillingham and Rainham, where he was joined by councillors and would-be MPs Rehman Chishti and Mark Reckless.

Mr Osborne was given a tour of the MEMS Power Generation site before moving onto a privately owned hardware store in Rochester High Street.

David Cameron's right-hand man reiterated the Conservative Party's opposition to the increase in National Insurance contribution, or the 'jobs tax' as the party have labelled it.

Speaking at the MEMS site, Mr Osborne said: "I want to see what we can do to help businesses expand and take on new people in the Medway area.

"Gordon Brown has let down this area and we want to make sure we don't. We want to stop the jobs tax which will kill the recovery."

Mr Osborne gave his support to Medway's three Conservative hopefuls; Rehman Chishti, Mark Reckless and Tracey Crouch.

He said: "We've got three really, really strong candidates. We've got Reh (Gillingham and Rainham), Mark (Rochester and Strood) and Tracey (Chatham and Aylesford) in the Medway seats and this is going to mean the area has strong MPs in Parliament, making sure it gets a fair deal and doesn't get neglected as it has been during the past 13 years."

The campaign tour then headed to Johnstone's Tool Merchants in Rochester High Street, which has been a privately owned for 50 years.

Outside the store, the shadow chancellor said: "I'm here to support Mark [Reckless], who I think will be a fantastic MP for Rochester and Strood, and also to see some of the businesses on the High Street here – small businesses that need help and struggle in the current economy."

Shop owner Archie Johnstone talked to the Shadow Chancellor and the prospective MP.

He said: "They need to connect to the man in the street about their policies and what difference it will make to them, what they are going to do on the street.

"I said that Mr Cameron could walk the elec-

CANDIDATES UNDER PRESSURE OVER TOLLS

WAIT: The Dartford Crossing

THE result of the General Election next month could help seal the fate of the Dartford crossing which is facing being sold to a private company.

Small firms that regularly use the bridge and tunnels said they will be appealing to the new Members of Parliament to safeguard the vital crossing that links Kent with Essex.

Chancellor Alistair Darling confirmed the proposed sale, to bolster Treasury funds, during his last Budget speech.

But business owners, already smarting from a recent rise in fees to use the crossing, are worried a new owner may send transport bills soaring with massive hikes in tolls.

The Government has already gone back on a historic promise to lift all the tolls once the crossing was paid for, which happened in 2003.

Five years later the tolls went up for some parts of the day.

Businessmen say the lure of easy cash from an already established infrastructure was just too much for any Chancellor to resist.

The Federation of Small Businesses, which represents more than 200,000 UK businesses has called for the new MPs to press for protection for business users.

It wants the Government to honour the promise originally made that £1.50 tolls for cars and £3.70 for lorries would be axed.

The QEII bridge opened in 1991, and the first tunnel in 1963. Some 150,000 vehicles use it every day. The second tunnel opened in 1983.

The FSB demanding any sale contains strict legally-binding requirements to keep tolls down.

FSB's Kent regional organiser Andrew Aves said they are organising a series of meetings with local candidates before the election.

He said: "We want to influence people before the event rather than crying over spilt milk afterwards. The tolls are already creating bottlenecks limiting traffic movement to a set number per hour.

"Any new owner will want to put up the tolls to increase revenue as they can't increase traffic flow without major investment.

"Number plate recognition systems like they use in London could be used to speed up traffic, but paying for that to be installed could lead to a rise in fees.

"Government figures show congestion starts at 4,000 vehicles an hour, while a four-lane motorway can take up to 7,000 an hour before speeds drop to 50mph, which is the speed limit here anyway.

"Doing away with the tolls will lead to a huge rise in efficiency for small companies."

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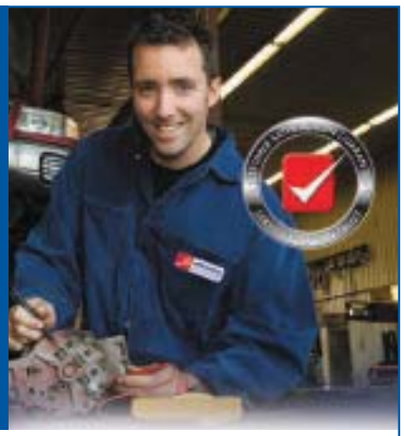

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their party's message to Kent this week

Tory hopefuls

ON THE STUMP: Shadow Chancellor George Osborne (centre) met Gillingham and Rainham Tory candidate Rehman Chishti (right) and staff at he MEMS Power Generation site this week

tion as long as he gets the message across about how they will make a difference.

"People are getting confused with all the waffle, but they need to keep it clear as we're the ones they get their money from."

When asked on the key election issues for Rochester and Strood, parliamentary candidate Mr Reckless said: "It's the economy. People have just had enough and we need to get back on track – we need to stop the jobs tax as George says.

"The other issue I hear a lot of is immigration and I think we are going to bring in an annual cap on immigration."

South East manifesto is launched at war vet visit

THE CONSERVATIVES are on a mission to secure the votes of Kent residents and say the county is one of their most important areas.

Dr Liam Fox, Shadow Secretary of State for Defence, spoke of Kent's vital role in the General Election when he visited the Royal British Legion Village in Aylesford on Tuesday.

He said: "We see Kent as very important. We want to prove to Kent that we are the right government for the job."

Dr Fox made the trip to the military village, which caters for disadvantaged ex-serviceman, to meet World War Two veterans, Gurkha soldiers and teenagers from the Air Cadets Training Corps.

Murray Lane, 15, who is a member of the Training Corps, said: "We spoke with Mr Fox about a future career in the RAF and what options there would be for us. He was really nice."

As well as speaking with the youngsters about what a Tory government would bring to the Armed Forces, Dr Fox also spoke to the veterans about their time in the war, and their lives afterwards.

He said: "We need to make these soldiers know they are our number ones. We need to ensure they are looked after and that their families are looked after.

"We also need to consider how veterans will be different in the future – they are going to be younger and coming home injured from Afghanistan or Iraq."

The shadow secretary's visit to Aylesford also launched the Conservative's manifesto in the South East and said he was pleased with the reception.

"They are wonderful people here. There has been a great buzz today – if only you could bottle all the enthusiasm from the Kent people," he said.

On site to welcome Dr Fox were the Conservative parliamentary candidates for Aylesford and Chatham Tracey Crouch, Helen Grant for Maidstone and the Weald, and Rehman Chisti for Gillingham and Rainham.

Ms Crouch said: "It's an honour to have Liam here and for Aylesford to be chosen as the location the Conservatives wanted to launch their manifesto for the entire South East – I'm really proud.

"All of the residents here at the Royal British Legion Village were really excited to meet Liam and had polished their medals to show him."

Both Dr Fox and Ms Crouch agreed they think residents are "fed up with a negative Government" and are confident their leader David Cameron will win the keys for 10 Downing Street.

Dr Liam Fox

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GENERAL ELECTION MAY 6, 2010 Older voters may hold sway

X-PERIENCE: The grey vote could tip the balance in many of Kent's marginal seats

Grey expectations

PARTY leaders have been warned against dismissing the influence of elderly voters in the run-up to the General Election, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Social care charities believe the so-called 'grey vote' could have a big part to play in determining who wins next month, and are calling on older people to ensure their voice is heard.

According to Age UK – the new name for Age Concern and Help the Aged – people aged over 55 will cast four out of every 10 votes and make up the majority in many marginal seats, of which there are many in Kent.

Paul Coles, chief executive of the charity's Maidstone branch, said it was unwise to assume elderly residents will go to the polls and remain loyal to a particular party.

He said: "It's well known older people are more likely to vote than younger people, but it shouldn't be assumed they are set in their ways. They are always open to new ideas.

"It's important their views are heard because they have experience and a lot have voted in elections for 40-odd years. Their votes are important and they should be targeted with policies."

Anne Belworthy, chair of Canterbury and District Pensioners' Forum, agreed Kent's older voters had an important role to play.

She said: "I don't think we have a right to be targeted more than any other group, but deserve equal attention and that's something we don't always get. But I can understand why Labour in particular is doing it, because there's a whole generation of voters who can't remember what it was like when [Margaret] Thatcher was in charge."

According to Age UK, over-55s will account for the majority of votes cast in 319 constituencies. 'Grey majorities' are held in 94 highly marginal seats, including Sittingbourne and Sheppey, where securing votes among this age group could mean the difference between success and failure.

Mrs Belworthy said there were several issues older voters were keen to receive assurances on. She said: "The main thing is they want spending on healthcare safeguarded. Improvements in this area have been so great over the last few years that we want it to be maintained. We would also very much like assurances that free bus and train travel will be maintained because it's so important for older people to get out and be active. Isolation causes them to be unwell and to be a further burden on the taxpayer."

The publication of the Age UK report coincided with the launch of the charity's General Election campaign – Our Power is Our Number – which asks older voters to put five key questions to their candidates.

These are based on the reform of the social care system, improving pensions, axing enforced retirement, making the NHS fit for later life, and enabling older people to play a greater role in society.

Mr Coles said: "Older people want to know how care is going to be funded in the long term, they want to know if current levels of daycare will continue to be supported and they want to know what the long-term future is for pensions.

"Party leaders are increasingly aware of how important the older vote is because we have an aging population. Perhaps the next step is to visit them more to find out exactly what it is they want."

Ukip leader takes fight to the beaches

UKIP leader Lord Pearson has admitted failing to convince one of his party's candidates to stand down and support his Tory rival.

The 67-year-old insurance tycoon wanted Ian Davison to give up his dream of becoming the MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey, and instead give his backing to the Conservative Eurosceptic Gordon Henderson, but his pleas fell on deaf ears.

Had Mr Davison gone along with the plan, he would have been Ukip's second Kent MP this week to have stood down after Robin Johnson in Rochester and Strood withdrew his candidacy.

Lord Pearson visited the county on Thursday and told KOS Media his party's new policy was to put the country first and back would-be MPs who support UK independence. "We don't want to stand against politicians who share our main goals," he said. "That's why we are supporting Conservative Mark Reckless in Rochester and Strood. I would have liked for us to do the same in Sittingbourne and Sheppey because Gordon Henderson is a Eurosceptic and I would have liked our candidate to step down.

Unfortunately I haven't been able to persuade him. I've actually got a little bet going with him because he says he'll win the seat and I've promised him a magnum of whisky if he does. If he doesn't, he's agreed to support the formula next time."

Lord Pearson was elected Ukip leader in November after Bromley's Nigel Farage stepped down to concentrate on contesting the Buckingham seat.

Former Tory Lord Pearson – who was expelled from the party in 2004 after calling on voters to back Ukip – was in Kent to support those concerned about the privatisation of the Port of Dover.

He said the half a billion pounds the Government expects to make from the sale could be saved by cutting ties with the EU.

He said: "You've got to put that against the cost of our membership, which is about £124 billion a year. In 2008, Government figures say we gave £6.6bn to Brussels. It's silly to say we can't find half a billion when we're throwing so much money away on Europe."

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in the marginals as veteran MPs leave the fray after years of service to county

A FOND FAREWELL TO FAMILIAR FACES

THE political make-up of Kent will see big changes next month, regardless of which seats are won and lost.

Even in the unlikely event that both main parties' seats remain unchanged, the retirement of eight of the county's MPs – including several key names – means there will be new faces after May 6.

Perhaps the biggest blow to the Tories is the loss of two of its most senior – and controversial – MPs in former party leader Michael Howard and the woman who once described him as having "something of the night" about him, Ann Widdecombe.

But having sat in the Commons for 27 and 23 years respectively, the retirement of two of the biggest names in British politics came as little surprise.

Former prisons minister Miss Widdecombe (pictured left) said: "Although Parliament was dissolved on Monday, it doesn't feel strange that I'm no longer an MP because I'm still tying up my constituents' affairs.

"I'm also involved with a full election campaign, so not much has changed yet.

"I wouldn't say I'm counting the days, but I'm certainly looking forward to being retired."

A supporter of traditional family values, Ms Widdecombe is also known for her outspoken views on such subjects as fox-hunting and anti-social behaviour.

Asked if she had any regrets, Miss Widdecombe replied: "None at all. You can always talk about wanting to go back and tweak things, but I wouldn't have done anything differently."

In comparison, Mr Howard – who led the Tories for two years before David Cameron took over in 2005 – told KOS Media there were "quite a few things" he would have done differently.

Despite declining to reveal what they might be, the former Folkestone and Hythe MP (left) said he was also pleased with what he had achieved.

He said: "I'm proud of my record in government, particularly in the Home Office and as leader of the opposition, even though we didn't achieve everything we wanted to.

"It feels a bit strange no longer being an MP, but I announced my retirement four years ago so I've had plenty of time to get used to the idea."

Asked if he was envious of Mr Cameron's success since taking over leadership of the party, Mr Howard said: "No, not at all. The way we look at it is that if he wins, it's partly due to a lot of the work we put in when I was leader."

The two other Kent Tories who have also stepped down are Derek Conway (Old Bexley & Sidcup) – who had the whip removed last year when it emerged he paid his student son an inflated parliamentary salary – and Orpington's John Horam.

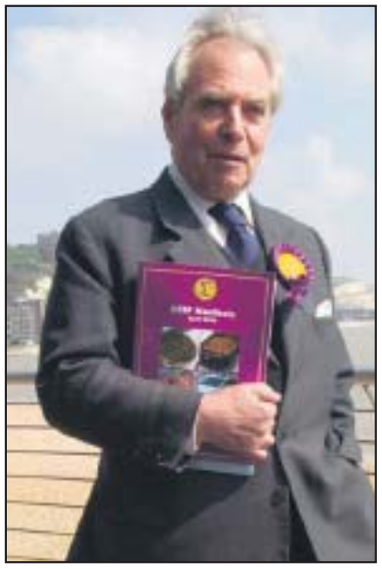
Among the four Labour MPs to have gone are rebellious Medway representative Bob Marshall-Andrews (right), and Erith and Thamesmead veteran John Austin.

Dartford's Dr Howard Stoate has quit over new rules on MPs' second jobs that would have prevented him from continuing as a GP.

Finally, Sittingbourne and Sheppey's Derek Wyatt (right) – the first MP to launch his own iPhone app – has also bowed out after 13 years.

The internet guru said securing funding for the £55 million Sheppey Academy was his greatest achievement, but that he was looking forward to "getting his old life back".

He added: "I'll be supporting Angela (Harrison) on polling day and if I thought I was going to be envious of her I wouldn't have stepped down in the first place. It's time for someone else to take over."



DUNKIRK SPIRIT: UKIP's leader Lord Pearson in Dover on Thursday

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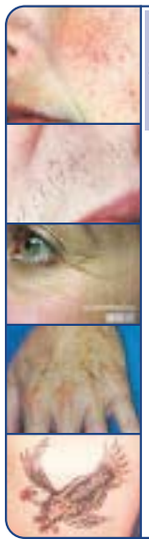

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Company fined after employee falls to his death

A PLANT hire company has been fined £200,000 for health and safety failings that lead to an employee falling five metres to his death.

The Health and Safety Executive prosecuted Ashtead Plant Hire Co Ltd, trading as APlant, which admitted breaching the Health and Safety at Work Act.

The company, based in Warrington, was also ordered to pay £15,698.30 costs at Maidstone Crown Court.

Phillip Pearce, 55, from Medway, had worked at the company's depot at Tovil, Maidstone – where it provide portable accommodation units to the construction industry – for less than three months when he died on August 16, 2006.

Two units were stacked on top of each other, Mr Pearce climbed onto the top of the stack to help attach lifting chains so the top unit could be lifted down. He fell more than five metres and died at the scene.

He had not been issued with safety equipment or given training, in breach of the company's own policy.

Nazi loot lecture

A RENOWNED historian and leading expert on Nazism will give the Vice-Chancellor's Lecture at the University of Kent.

Titled Looted Art in Europe 1938-45 and its Restitution since the Second World War, Prof Richard Evans' lecture will be at the university's Canterbury campus on April 30, at 6pm.

In the free public lecture, Prof Evans will explore the reasons why the Nazis stole cultural objects, and trace what has been done to restore these objects to their original owners.

Guilty of a £6m mortgage fraud

A MEMBER of a criminal gang that made millions from mortgage fraud had so much money, she stuffed her house with 13 flat screen TVs and had a Bentley in the garage, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Anthonia Akinyele, 35, from Wittisham Close, Chatham, admitted her part in the £6 million scam and was jailed for four years during a hearing at Southwark Crown Court.

Another woman and three men had already been jailed for a total of 19 years.

The court was told Akinyele, Ruth Ayinde-Azeez, Isaac Matthews from Chatham, David Hunter, and Jason Mercer, targeted properties across the UK.

They provided false mortgage applications and then used the loans to fund luxurious lifestyles, laundering the proceeds abroad.

Former part-time care worker Ayinde-Azeez denied everything but was found guilty of money laundering.

The others admitted various money laundering offences and conspiracy to defraud charges at earlier hearings.

Ayinde-Azeez was living an opulent lifestyle with the proceeds of the fraud. She was in the process of buying a £2.1m five-bedroom house in Hertfordshire and had put down a £100,000 cash deposit.

It was kitted out with 13 flat screen televisions, expensive Bang and Olufsen home entertainment systems, a gym and sauna.

She owned a Bentley CTC and a Land Rover Discovery, worth a total of £190,000. She also frequently stayed at top hotels in luxurious locations around the world. Police seized some of items under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

She received £1.5m paid into her bank, which she then sent to associates in Dubai.

She owned a 20 per cent share in a brokerage business M Solutions and Financial Ltd, which passed false mortgage applications to a solicitors firm.

Once they were approved by a financial body, the money would be sent to the solicitor's client account and then on to two business accounts controlled by Akinyele and Matthews.

Millions

Their businesses, Isaac and Isaacs, and Zikkito, have now been dissolved and financial enquiries revealed that more than £6m went through the accounts in just six weeks.

Matthews was arrested in February, 2008, at a Holiday Inn in Dartford, when police seized a Rolex watch and a Gucci watch.

Akinyele was arrested at her home in Chatham on the same day.

Mercer and Hunter were puppets in the fraud, the court heard. Their role was to allow the others to use their details on the mortgage applications and pay the loans off for a couple of months via direct debit.

They then cancelled those direct debits and were paid huge sums of money.

CAUGHT: Anthonia Akinyele and Isaac Matthews have been locked up for their parts in a multi-million mortgages fraud

Det Con Terry Lambert said: "This was a meticulously planned fraud with involvement from a number of different criminals using seemingly legitimate businesses to launder huge amounts of money in a very short space of time.

"We will now be looking to confiscate any assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act from those convicted."

Ruth Ayinde-Azeez, 26, of Barnet, was found guilty of one count of conspiracy to acquire, use or have criminal property, and one count of removing criminal property. She got four years.

Matthews, 42, also of Wittersham Close, Chatham, admitted conspiring to commit money laundering and transferring money out of the UK and was sentenced to six years.

Hunter, 35, of Hemel Hempstead, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud and got three years and nine months.

Mercer, 37, also from Hemel Hempstead, was given one year and nine months after admitting money laundering.

Police are still looking for Victor Ayinde-Azeez, 32. He is thought to be in Nigeria.

Kent Poles to unite in grief at service for dead president

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

GRIEVING members of Kent's thriving Polish community will attend a memorial service this weekend following the tragic death of their president.

Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria and scores of other senior officials were killed on Saturday, April 10, when the aeroplane they were travelling in clipped treetops and crashed while attempting to land in Smolensk, western Russia.

The tragedy has sparked an outpouring of grief among British-based Poles, including in Kent where more than 3,500 are spread out across towns including Canterbury, Maidstone and Ashford.

A significant number are expected to attend Sunday's mass, which takes place at St Francis' Roman Catholic Church, Maidstone, at 4pm.

Jan Zacylski, 50, from Ashford, runs the website Polkent, which provides information and advice to Polish residents in Kent.

He said of the President's death: "We are all really sad. This is a really big tragedy for us and I'm still in shock. It's very hard for me to even talk about it. We never expected something like this to happen.

"In Kent we have joined Poles around the world in grieving, because President Kaczynski was a really good man and a lot of people died with him, too.

"He came across as a very nice person. He was very warm and friendly and people loved him – even those who didn't vote for him in the elections. We miss him, we miss all of them. It's very sad."

The memorial service in Maidstone coincides with the joint burial of President Kaczynski and his First Lady, which follows a week-long period of mourning in Poland.

Father Tadeusz Dec – who flew back to his home nation after the tragedy – returned to Kent earlier this week to enable him to perform the ceremony at St Francis'.

Poland is predominantly a Roman Catholic country and as a result members of the Polish community are no strangers to associated churches in Kent.

Father John Boyle – priest at St Simon Stock Catholic Church, Ashford – said the tragedy had hit many of his parishioners hard.

He added: "When I heard what had happened I immediately thought about all the Polish people here in Ashford because I knew they would be devastated by such terrible news.

"That was confirmed when they came to church the next day and were all very sad indeed. Some decided not to come to the morning service because they were glued to their television screens.

"I didn't know too much about the president before his death, but it's clear he was very popular with his people. He was a good practicing Catholic as well and wanted to uphold those values in his country.

"Whatever political persuasion they are, the Polish people have united to grieve as one."

TRADEGY: President Lech Kaczynski will be buried on Sunday

Olympian backs paralysed sailor's Bahraini voyage

QUADRIPLEGIC yachtswoman Hilary Lister's bid to sail single-handedly around Bahrain has been given a major boost with help from a double Olympic gold medallist.

British Olympic sailor and TV presenter Shirley Robertson is backing the fundraising sail by Lister, who is paralysed from the neck down.

Lister, from Faversham, navigates her specially adapted 20ft yacht Arty using a sophisticated set of 'sip and puff' straws she can either blow or suck on.

To raise even more money for charity, she is preparing for a gruelling 100-mile solo journey around the coastline of Bahrain.

Robertson, who won gold in Sydney, 2000, and Athens, 2004, is spending four days in the Kingdom as a guest of Sail Bahrain, where she will attend a series of fund-raising events for local charity, Bahrain Mobility International which provides social rehabilitation and services to disabled people throughout Bahrain.

Robertson, who hosts a sailing show on American TV station CNN, said: "I recently interviewed Hilary in Korea when she was short-listed for the Rolex Women's World Sailor of the Year – she is an incredible woman, a talented yachtswoman and an inspiration to so many people."

And Lister added: "The support and encouragement I have received already has been wonderful. I'm very grateful to Shirley for giving her time to help support the project.

"The team worked really hard to get everything in place for the challenge, while maximising the fundraising opportunities for BMI. I hope people will join us in what promises to be an exciting few days both on and off the water."

The challenge is due to get underway on April 20 from Amwaj Marina.

Picture: MIKE COOPER

HELP: Shirley Robertson and Hilary Lister

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TASTY: Wild garlic, above and left, and tomatoes are among the delicious treats at FoodForKent.co.uk

Bringing old and young together

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A CIVIC service celebrating the achievements of past and present generations is being held by the Lord-Lieutenant of Kent.

The annual spring ceremony will take place at All Saints Church in Maidstone on Thursday, April 22, with representatives from the public services, civic dignitaries and national charities attending.

Lord-Lieutenant Allan Willet said the event will be a celebration of the youth of Kent – past, present and future – with particular reference to the 70th anniversaries of Dunkirk and the Battle of Britain, the 150th anniversary of the Cadet movement and the centenary of Guiding.

He said: "It is of great importance that the young people of today understand and appreciate the sacrifices of earlier generations, and that the older generations do not write off today's young people.

"So at the Civic Service, and at our main event at the County Showground in Detling, on May 15, it is right that we mix the generations and highlight the inspirational activity which is today flourishing among the youth of our great county."

Several events will be held throughout the year, based on the theme of young people and their achievements.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Kent was originally responsible for the military in times of emergency in the region. This responsibility was lost in the 19th century, but the holder of the ancient title continues to represent the crown in a ceremonial role.

Lord-Lieutenant Willett said the position aims to provide a focus for pride and achievement in Kent as well as a focus for stability.

EVENT: Lord-Lieutenant Allan Willet wants the generations to understand each other

Age no object for Harmsworth

How 1919 election saw newspaper magnate become youngest ever MP

WITH the countdown to next month's General Election now well under way, prospective MPs of all ages are busy canvassing support for their political campaigns, ***writes Steve Knight.***

Such is the diverse nature of British democracy that among those clamouring to represent Kent constituencies in the House of Commons this time around are a female porn film director, and a record-breaking world explorer.

But all would do well to follow the example set by the late Esmond Harmsworth – the 2nd Viscount Rothermere – who in 1919 became one of, if not the youngest ever MP, when he was elected by the people of the Isle of Thanet aged just 21.

And after serving a decade-long stint in Parliament, Harmsworth's legacy lives on in the Daily Mail newspaper that his family launched and continues to own to this day.

PRINT: Harold Harmsworth's Daily Mail newspaper is still a family affair today

Born the son of the Mail's financial wizard Harold Harmsworth, on May 29, 1898, the younger Harmsworth was educated at Eton College and later commissioned into the Royal Marine Artillery.

His most important role during his time in the Marines was when he served as Aide-de-Camp for Prime Minister David Lloyd George at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, which took place after the end of World War One and resulted in the formation of the League of Nations.

Later that year Harmsworth was elected as the MP for Thanet – which was then one single constituency – and was the baby of the House at just 21.

It is thought he remains the youngest ever MP to this day.

His exit from politics a decade later coincided with him taking a greater role in the newspaper businesses established by his father Harold and uncle Alfred – later Lord Northcliffe.

Harmsworth was the chairman of Associated Newspapers between 1932 and 1971 and chairman of its parent company, Daily Mail and General Trust Ltd, from 1938 until his death aged 80 on July 12, 1978.

It is widely believed that had it not been for his business acumen, both might have fallen out of his family's control.

Instead the Harmsworth name still has strong links with the companies, with majority ownership being voted by his grandson Harold and a significant minority by his son Vyvyan.

During his eventful life, Harmsworth married three times and had four children.

One of his former wives – Anne Charteris – married James Bond creator Ian Fleming in 1952.

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Scholar fears for live music if BBC savings go ahead

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

UNSIGNED bands will have an even greater struggle for recognition if the BBC goes ahead with controversial cutback proposals, warns a Kent-based scholar.

Dr Beau Webber – an honorary research fellow at the University of Kent – has launched a Downing Street petition calling on the Government to change the way the corporation is funded, so its services can be strengthened rather than slashed.

The move comes after the BBC announced last month that it wants to axe half of its websites, as well as the radio stations 6 Music and Asian Network.

Dr Webber, who runs the Kent Folk information website for local bands, said the corporation was heading in the wrong direction.

He said: "BBC documentaries, music programmes and news reporting are of a remarkably high standard on a world basis, and form part of what it is to be British.

"In particular the type of music it supports is absolutely wonderful, and we don't want to start losing this. If we do it will make it much harder for young people and bands to get to the point of nationwide and worldwide recognition."

The Kent Folk website – www.kentfolk.com – contains information for local bands and singers from across the county, including gig calendars, audition dates and links to song clips and videos.

Dr Webber said the BBC needed to concentrate on similar websites, but on a larger scale, and that live bands would suffer if the corporation went ahead with the cutbacks.

TUNING OUT: 6 Music presenter Jarvis Cocker, and Dr Beau Webber

He said: "Unsigned bands are the future of live music, so to suggest it's time to cut back on the easiest portals to provide information on these bands is totally wrong.

"Some groups manage to get their songs played on the national programmes, but there's a lack of follow-up information about them afterwards. The website links and band information is on the web pages, so it's not going to help if these are lost.

"Eventually they will just give up. It's hard enough at the moment because pub gigs have almost died in Kent over the last few years."

BBC director general Mark Thompson announced the shake-up by revealing that half of the corporation's websites would be shut down by 2013, saving £600 million which will be diverted into programme-making.

The impending closure of 6 Music has sparked arguably the most heated opposition, with a Facebook group supporting its survival having attracted more than 170,000 members so far. Campaigners who want to the save the station – whose presenters include Lauren Laverne and Pulp frontman Jarvis Cocker – have received backing from pop stars David Bowie and Lily Allen.

Last weekend the Sunday Times speculated that the station may be re-launched as Radio Two Extra, but this was denied by the BBC.

Dr Webber said it was about time the Government intervened and changed the way the corporation was funded.

He said: "I think the rules can be changed. At the moment it's almost entirely funded by the licence fee, but there must be other ways."

Visit www.kentfolk.com and follow the links to sign the Downing Street petition.

CULT band Half Man Half Biscuit have become the centre of a national campaign to save doomed digital radio station 6 Music, *writes Marijke Cox*.

Campaigners have been pushing to get the groups' hit Joy Division Oven Gloves into the UK music charts at number six, to highlight the plight of their favourite radio channel.

The move was started by Chris and Sarah Shade, from Rochester, who called for support to fight BBC plans to axe 6 Music along with the Asian Network station.

They started a Facebook group – which boasts almost 6,000 members – in a bid to put a stop to plans.

Despite the song falling short at number 56 in last Sunday charts, Mr Shade said he was delighted.

"This is the first time Half Man Half Biscuit has ever had a hit single in the charts in 25 years," he said.

"It doesn't matter it didn't come in at number six – the campaign has been highlighted through this, which is what we wanted to do."

Mr Shade said the idea started as a joke after couple Jon and Tracy Mortar organised the Rage Against the Machine campaign which stopped X Factor winner Joe McElderry from getting the Christmas number one.

"We thought we'd do it too, but didn't realise it would go this far," said Mr Shade.

"DJs at the BBC were told they couldn't play it, but 6 Music DJ Tom Robinson played it, and I spoke to the band's manager who said lead singer Nigel Blackwell was very flattered. We see this as being a great representation of all that 6 Music is about, a home for new acts and music that gets no exposure anywhere else on the radio."

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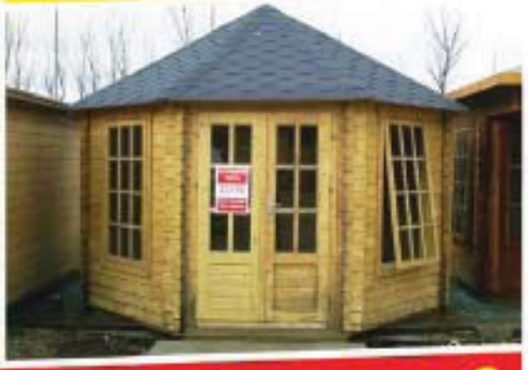

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Tunnel HQ of Dunkirk evacuation opened to salute 70th anniversary

By **NICK AMES**

THIS year sees the 70th anniversary of the historic World War Two evacuation of the beaches at Dunkirk when 338,000 Allied soldiers were rescued from the Nazis by an armada of warships, merchant vessels and pleasure craft.

Operation Dynamo, as the evacuation was known, was overseen from underneath Dover Castle. And to mark the anniversary the labyrinth of tunnels below the castle will be open to the public as part of a series of events at the historic site from May 28-June 4.

Vice Admiral Bertram Ramsay, who was given less than a week to prepare the British escape from northern France, oversaw Operation Dynamo.

From his headquarters in the tunnels he directed and inspired a small staff who had the daunting task of planning the evacuation of British and French troops while under constant attack from German forces.

By May 26, 1940, Ramsay had assembled 15 passenger ferries at Dover and 20 at Southampton. It was hoped these would be able to pick up troops from the quays at Dunkirk. But minefields and shelling from German batteries on the French coast forced evacuation convoys to take longer routes to Dunkirk.

The first convoy, after sustaining heavy air attacks, found the port of Dunkirk with its oil tanks ablaze and only the passenger ferries Royal Daffodil and the Canterbury succeeded in berthing.

By the end of the first day just 7,500 troops had been rescued, and it was clearly impossible to use the port.

Officers on the beaches signalled for the rescue ships to be diverted to the east of the town.

Ramsay knew he needed more seacraft.

In London, the Admiralty's Small Vessels Pool had been collecting all available seaworthy pleasure craft. With volunteer crews, many of whom had never sailed out of sight of land before, they were checked at Sheerness Dockyard and then sent to Ramsgate to await final sailing orders.

There the boats, many used only as pleasure craft, were joined by a mixture of lifeboats, trawlers, Thames sailing barges, and tugs.

The first convoy of little ships set sail from Ramsgate at 10pm on May 29, and by the next day they were streaming across the Channel in seemingly unending lines.

The dangers were great – ships, both large and small, were targets for German fighters, bombers, submarines and coastal batteries, plus the random danger of mines that made the crossing unimaginably hazardous.

Many of the smaller craft headed for the beaches, acting as tenders ferrying men from the beaches to larger vessels anchored offshore. Some of the larger trawlers and drifters loaded troops directly in Dunkirk harbour.

On the evening of June 2, with the German forces closing in, Ramsay despatched another flotilla of ships, including 13 passenger ships, 14 minesweepers and 11 destroyers.

At 11.30pm the historic signal "BEF evacuated" was received from Dunkirk.

Only one more night of evacuation was possible. On the night of June 3, a final effort was made using British, French, Belgian and Dutch ships to bring out as many of the French rearguard as possible and more than 26,000 men were saved from the advancing German troops.

In all, around 338,000 troops were rescued from Dunkirk, almost two thirds, 200,000, passing through Dover, Folkestone and Ashford.

During the nine-day operation the Southern Railway laid on a total of 327 special trains, which cleared 180,982 troops from Dover.

Some 4,500 casualties were treated at the town's Buckland Hospital, and all but 50 of these seriously ill men were saved.

During the week of commemorations the castle will be manned by re-enactors in wartime uniforms and costumes, a memorial service will be held, guns will fire in salute, and a wreath will be laid.

• ***To see a video a tour of the tunnels go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk.***

HISTORY: Actors will recreate the planning that went on in the tunnels to save Allied troops

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Safe Exit success for prostitutes

THE number of prostitutes working the streets has plummeted after the launch of a scheme aimed at helping sex workers, ***writes Marijke Cox***.

In just seven months, the Safe Exit programme in Medway has seen a drop of more than 80 per cent in the number of women involved in prostitution.

In August, 2009, the figure was 110 women, but by March this year, there were fewer than 20 working Medway's streets on a frequent basis. Safe Exit was started in response to concerns raised by residents, who regularly found used condoms and drug needles in their gardens.

Police launched the operation in partnership with the NHS, Medway Council and the Medway Drug and Alcohol Team.

The scheme gives women arrested for prostitution the opportunity to receive housing support, drug treatment and help into education.

Men arrested for kerb-crawling are also offered a rehabilitation course.

Medway councillor Nick Brice was arrested by police in November after trying to pick up a prostitute in Rochester.

The 64-year-old, from Chatham, was given a conditional caution and thrown out of the Conservative party, but despite calls to resign as an independent councillor, the shamed politician remains serving on Medway Council.

Insp Gary Woodward said the project had to be more than just moving prostitutes to another area.

"We're trying to change the behaviour of the women and also the behaviour of the men who use prostitutes," he said.

"This trade has been in Medway for many years and until 2009 there had been little change in how it was dealt with."

Sally (not her real name), who had been in the sex industry for 17 years, said despite initial reservations about the scheme, she now had stability in her life.

"Once I started seeing results it gave me more incentive to carry on," she said.

Research has shown the average age of females entering prostitution is 14 years. It is believed all the prostitutes have drug problems.

But some experts working to help sex workers disputed the figures. They also believe programmes such as Safe Exit only go half way in helping the women.

Cari Mitchell, for the English Collection of Prostitutes, said decriminalisation was the way forward.

"We applaud what the police are trying to do, but this won't help," she said. "Those involved in the scheme will have been arrested, which means they have a criminal record.

"How are they supposed to get a job when an employer sees they have a sexual offence on their record? When they get fined they then have to work the streets to get money to pay."

Ms Mitchell also claimed the 80 per cent figure was not a true representation of the number of women getting their lives back on track through Safe Exit.

"Prostitution is just being driven underground, which means women are more at risk from customers," she said.

She also disputed suggestions all prostitutes were drug addicts: "Seventy per cent are mothers trying to earn money for their families."

Phillip Cooper, of the Medway Drug and Alcohol Action team, said: "This is not a quick fix. We are here for the long run.

"We believe that by offering the support these women have never had, we can have a huge impact on the illegal sex trade."

Men who use prostitutes are also targeted. Those arrested for kerb-crawling – if it is their first offence – are given the chance of rehabilitation. If they attend a course, which costs the offender £200, they do not go to court. Fifty men have take part and none have re-offended.

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Winning novelist hails from city

A WRITER from Canterbury has won a major literary award.

Rana Dasgupta took the £10,000 best book category in the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for his novel, Solo.

Mr Dasgupta, 38, was born in Kent but now lives in New Delhi. Judges praised his book's "edginess".

Solo is an epic tale about the 20th and 21st centuries told from the perspective of a 100-year-old Bulgarian man. The annual prize recognises literature from the former British colonies.

PC death charge

A MAN has been charged with causing death by dangerous driving after a Kent Police officer was killed on duty.

PC Phillip Pratt, 26, died after being struck on June 14, last year. He and another officer were diverting traffic from the A249 after an accident.

Stephen Allen Frank Pirie, 48, of Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, appeared before Canterbury magistrates. His case was transferred to the city's crown court for a preliminary hearing on April 26.

Smoking ban split

ONLY a slim majority of people who voted in a kentnews.co.uk online poll believe smoking should not be banned in cars and public places.

Of the 821 who voted, 47 per cent were in favour of a ban, while 432 were against.

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Don't take grey vote for granted

IN A world increasingly dominated by Facebook, reality TV and Nintendo Wii, it can sometimes be too easy to forget about the needs of the older generation.

But while the main parties appear focused on wooing first-time voters in the run-up to the General Election, they ignore more experienced members of our society at their peril.

The over-55s are expected cast four out of every 10 votes next month and make up the majority in many marginal seats.

Older people are seen as more likely to stay loyal to a party, but that's a dangerous assumption when the parties are now seen as being so similar. Loyalty becomes even less likely in Kent this year, as eight of the county's MPs – an even split of Labour and Tory – have called it a day.

While policies on property and university fees are obviously important for young voters, many older people who want reassurances about social care, the NHS and transport. The parties would do well to remember that.

Torn off a strip

BUSINESSES are forever trying to come up with clever ways to advertise.

A cartoon strip isn't a bad one and it probably paid off for the bright sparks at Chatham-based legal firm My Brief.

No doubt the ad promising to look for 'legal loopholes' for speeders was popular with some drivers, but it left a bad taste in the mouth for safety camera chiefs.

OPINION: Your voice can be heard

By not voting you give up your right to complain, says the Bishop of Dover

'PLEASE vote' is a message I will be sharing widely between now and the forthcoming elections.

I shall be doing so not only because I believe that a responsibility to vote is part and parcel of enjoying the benefits of living in a democracy, but also for the sake of the public institutions which undergird our common life.

Since my installation as Bishop of Dover in February, I have toured many of the regions that make up our Diocese, from Maidstone to Thanet. During these visits I have met several MPs and dozens of councillors.

Without exception, these men and women demonstrate behaviour that is altruistic and honourable. They are public servants who feel called to serve their communities and work hard to improve our society.

I have also seen real evidence of politicians seeking partnerships in local communities with the hope of finding solutions to some of the problems in society.

These leaders admit they are not in possession of all the answers, nor necessarily have the correct resources to hand, and they value the contribution of others.

Partnerships are precious things. They require trust, respect and a shared sense of hope.

A partnership, like a marriage, is about working towards a common good – perhaps losing some of your own identity, but in the process achieving something worthwhile as we grow.

But I've also encountered a sense of apathy, cynicism and disillusionment to political life, particularly among young people.

There is an increasing desire in this country to discredit and to knock down all institutions and political systems.

I can understand why people feel anxious or disillusioned.

Scandals such as those around MPs' expenses, the cash for questions, and perceived stories about over-powering legislation from Europe, have not helped people to trust our politicians and leaders.

Some of those I've talked with have questioned whether voting this time around will make any difference. "They're all the same – in it for themselves," is not an uncommon comment. While it may be true that on our own we cannot change the world, together as part of something bigger we can. One voice is small, but our voices together will be heard.

I not only want us all to vote, I want us to stop discrediting public life and I want us to engage with our political systems. I ask this especially on behalf of those vulnerable people who live at the margins of society whose voice may not be heard.

If we do not vote and do not engage with local and national politics we risk decisions being made by leaders who do not represent the people; decisions we will be stuck with. Once you give up your right to vote, you also give up your right to complain.

By not engaging with politics we also risk allowing vast sections of our shared life to be run by focus groups or by the minority voice derived from 'public consultations'. Sadly it is often a small number of people with a fixed agenda.

Before we know it, decisions are made by a minority who wish to to infuse their will on the majority, and our shared life is damaged.

We need diversity in our society. God made us to be unique – each with different gifts and skills. We therefore need that diversity to be recognised in our society – both in the people elected as politicians and in the range of views that are represented.

During this election period I am encouraging churches to arrange hustings so that local people can engage with their parliamentary candidates.

I am keen that we ask our aspirant MPs how they propose to help people at the margins of society. I hope Christians will lead the way in asking how candidates will protect the poor and vulnerable, and make our nation a place of fairness and peace.

We also need to find ways of engaging young people in our democratic processes.

Above all, we need to raise the educational horizons of disadvantaged children so they can play their part in building the common good.

Please join me in praying that people will vote in the forthcoming elections and perhaps together we can make this country a better place to live.

• ***Right Reverend Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover, Bishop in Canterbury***

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New police chief must avoid the red herrings

After the shocking waste of Kent Police's spy drones, surely the priority for the new Chief Constable will be to publish all salaries, expenses, pensions and costs, as already required by Freedom of Information for every public authority.

The delay from our public servants for full disclosure suggests the bumf and bloat is only outmatched by tax and waste, as tax and council tax automatically increase each year.

While with the appalling air pollution and lack of clean-up and scrutiny from Kent County Council – whether it's removing air and noise monitors from Manston or failing to detail repeated road pollution requiring air quality management areas (don't breathe in, presumably) and shipping pollution such as at Cliftonville sands or Kent's ports – shows how little the various councils in the Kent and Medway Air Quality Partnership have done to protect the public compared with their pay and pensions.

Surely Kent's MPs and councillors should join forces with Kent Police to pretend there is no problem, and if there is to whitewash it away. With a possibility for red herrings and Macguffins like his Hollywood namesake, perhaps Alfred Hitchcock is ideal for chief constable.

Unless there's an Inspector Charles Chaplin?

Tim Garbutt, Ramsgate

Victims need a brave man

As operations director of Gravesend-based charity Family Matters – the UK's largest specialist provider of therapy and support for child and adult victims of sexual abuse and rape – I strongly recommend that whoever becomes Kent's next chief constable should have a proven track record in improving the investigation of sexual violence.

The sexual abuse of children and the rape of women, girls and sometimes men are pernicious crimes that are all too common – as Family Matters' statistics show.

We provide therapy for 700 men, women and children each year and receive 3,000 calls on our helpline. Rape and sexual abuse are a violation of the body that creates unique trauma, on a par with murder and serious assault. Consequently, the investigation of these crimes is a unique challenge for any police service.

It is imperative that Kent employs a chief constable who has the vision and boldness to adopt the Baroness Stern inquiry's recommendation to place the victim at the centre of the investigation.

For too long the police have assessed the quality of their service to rape victims on conviction or attrition rates. Such obsessions place the criminal justice system and its needs at the centre of investigations and not the victim, whose needs are often sacrificed on the criminal justice high altar, encouraged by its priests and priestesses, the judiciary.

Is the new chief constable sufficiently brave and able to make the victim's experience of the police investigation the most important element and not necessarily the outcome? Which candidate, if any, can be that chief constable?

Malcolm Gilbert, Family Matters

Stop this vandalism of our Heritage Quarter

Monday is D-Day for Gravesend. At 7pm in the Woodville Halls, the council will decide whether or not Gravesend will go for large-scale demolition in the Heritage Quarter – followed by the construction of a jumble of 1980s-style, non-heritage, inappropriate buildings in their place.

The new scheme would surround the historic and lovely St George's Church and block yet more river views.

Our 'representatives' will try to force through this hated scheme and continue to override months of objections from the public – over 3,500 letters and countless private representations.

The fact is, almost nobody who does not have an interest in this scheme is in favour.

First, our council forced the ordinary, hard-working people of Gravesend to fight them every inch of the way for over a year to stop their horrible 36-storey tower.

Second, it was the same scenario with the attempt to develop St Andrew's Green.

And now we have another 'degeneration' worse than the first two.

Why is the council so keen on a scheme which would make our historic riverside town look like Croydon?

Why is its response to our logical and polite comments always so dismissive and rude?

Please be at the Woodville Halls at 6.30pm on Monday and make sure our council listens to our views. For once. And for always.

Peers Carter, Gravesend

Lacking vision or value

Having managed a theme park and consulted on a number of themed facilities, I could claim better experience and knowledge than most regarding Dreamland in Margate.

Fact is, I could have helped them years ago but the operators had no intention of saving it. Now the bickering continues because there is no real end goal or formula for the park.

What one sees and gets is a stew of ideas and concepts, yet no real-time aim apart from the lack of vision.

Dreamland has historic potential, yet even this is staid by vision and lack of concept.

Nostalgia is all right for the few, but lacks a future for the many.

One could say how big is the Big Wheel, but then if one fails to incorporate the potential views from such, one has lost attraction value, just as a meandering river holds no benefit. Only when true vision and value are incorporated can one say Dreamland will attract the tourist numbers required to keep it alive in future years.

Not forgetting its yearly refreshment – a must for any theme park.

One must provide for all ages yet offer selection and choice.

Any park that doesn't may succeed on opening yet fail by year's end.

The mistakes are already being made in the comparison stakes, yet the light is missing for its success.

Ultimately, the failures are in-bred and growing factors that will lead to an unsustainable park.

One can only hope those who are able get it sorted fast.

Derek Packham, Canterbury

Letters continued on page 24

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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BIRTHS

CLIFFORD
Welcome to the world Heidi Lowry Clifford! A beautiful daughter for David and Samantha and sister to Xavier, born on 25th March 2010.

DHADWAR
Jagdeep and Kuldeep are proud to announce the birth of their son Danjit Dhadwar. A baby brother for Avjit and a new grandson for Harminder and Balbir Sandhu. Baby born on 12th March 2010 at Darent Valley Hospital weighing 7lb 9oz.

GILHAM
Lucas George born on 6th April 2010 weighing 9lb ½oz. Son to Tara and Clive, brother for Levi, Micki-Ann, Mia, Tyler-Jay and Jessie.

HADLEY
Leanne and John welcomed baby John-Henry Hadley on the 26th March 2010 weighing 7lb 4oz. You are the miracle who we will love and treasure forever.

HUSEYIN
Aidan born on the 28th March 2010 at Darent Valley Hospital, weighing 6lb 11oz. Son to Adam and Michelle in Dartford.

KOVARIKOVA
Martin and Jana of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their daughter, Aneta Kovarikova, on 20th March 2010.

MORGAN
Billy Geoff Morgan, born 18th March, weighing 8lbs 10ozs. A little brother for Alfie and another beautiful son for Gareth and Emma.

OLIVER
Martin and Judith Oliver would like to announce the birth of their son Ayrton on the 29th March 2010, weighing 7lb 7oz. A welcomed new edition to our lives.

OSBORNE
Evelyn Anne, born on 20 March 2010, weighing 8lb 7oz. Daughter to Tom and Karen Osborne in Maidstone.

PIKE
Thomas Alan, born on 25th February 2010, weighing 8lb 9oz. Son to Tony and Sian and brother to Megan and Aaron of Hunton, Maidstone.

TRIFILETTI
Roberto and Sarah of Sevenoaks are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Sofia Ellen Trifiletti, born at 9.24pm on 9th February 2010, weighing 7lb 7oz.

DEATHS

BREWER
David John Brewer of Ramsgate died peacefully on 30th March 2010. Funeral Service at Thanet Crematorium at 2 pm on Friday 23rd April. Enquiries to H R Palmer 01843 592720.

McLACHLAN Nee LANCEFIELD
Blanche, passed away at her home in Hythe on 10th April 2010. Funeral to be arranged with Earl and Co, telephone 01233 620522. Will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

MORGAN
In memory of Susan Morgan who died peacefully on 30th March 2010 at home - 8 Austen Gardens Dartford. Always loved, always missed by her children and grandchildren.

RICHARDS
Kathleen Constance Richards died peacefully on 3rd April 2010. Funeral service at Charing Crematorium at 11.20am on Tuesday 13th April. Donations to Cancer Research.

Letters continued from page 23

They still aren't listening

Last week's Opinion by Alice Sakura Dartnell and the letter by Edward La Coste both voice concerns felt by many of the electorate.

All the parties are telling us what they are going to do and ignore what we want. We've had enough of voters' wishes being subjugated by party dogma. There is very little debate any more, career MPs aren't interested in listening to their constituents, but vote according to Whips' directions, to further their own advancement. The unprecedented demonstrations against the invasion of Iraq being ignored and the resultant expensive mess, being a fine example.

So we have ended up with rule by Cabinet, or even just party leader. MPs are always talking about bringing democracy to Iraq and Afghanistan, when are they going to bring democracy to us? They pay lip service to listening, then do exactly what suits them.

There are many problems causing grave concern to the people of this country. The first party that has the guts to stand up for those concerns will be the one I will vote for.

At the moment they all lack the guts, or are too tied to their own vested interests.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Poland's terrible loss

I am sure I speak on behalf of all of us in expressing sympathy after the tragic deaths of the president of Poland and many other people in the air crash last week.

I know many in the local Polish community have been deeply affected and as they join with their compatriots in seven days of national mourning, our thoughts and our prayers are very much with them in this tragic loss for the Polish people.

Ben Bano, Deputy Mayor of Deal

We are all 'foreigners'

Another letter about charging 'foreigners' to use our roads. So we set up a scheme to charge, but who is going to get the money?

Kent County Council seems to think it will all come its way, but how about Essex, Surrey, or any other county council in Britain. Will they also think they are entitled to a share?

So it ends up going to the Treasury, which will decide who gets what. Probably about a third will be lost in 'administration' and most of the remainder will end up in the general taxation pot. Last year about £47 billion was collected in direct motoring taxes and about £9 billion was reinvested into the road system.

So why does anybody think money collected from foreigners is going to be used on the roads? Only last week, the Liberal Democrats announced they will cut the new roads budget by 90 per cent.

Foreigners may seem fair game for raising taxation, but millions of Britons travel abroad – and then we become the foreigners.

The writer complained about bogus speeding fines. But are we now not doing the same thing as the police target foreign vehicles? The anti-roads lobby recently strengthened its hold by allowing more cross-border chasing of fines.

It's easy for councils/police/mayors to make false motoring charges against foreigners to raise funds for any project – if the fines are directed into the local economy.

They know nobody is going to travel hundreds of miles to a foreign court with an alien justice system and argue their case in another language. It should also be remembered that EU quangocrats, want motoring offences in another country to also count for putting endorsements on your driving licence.

By all means try to get a fairer system, but anti-foreigner action is only going to bring retaliation.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

We need more Kevins

On Good Friday, I set off from Sandwich by train bound for Broadstairs. I had never been to this part of England before and had little idea of what to expect.

I walked along clifftop roads towards the North Foreland from where I was to start a journey of nearly 400 miles along the coast to Land's End – joining the furthest points east and west which are south of the Thames. It will take me most of the summer to complete.

Having checked my map, I decided I had found my starting point – and then I found Kevin.

I don't know his surname but he should be a local dignitary. He walked with me for the first two miles and pointed out so much I would never have known. The Thirty-Nine Steps, Bleak House, the Jewel in the Crown. All this and so much more of the history of Broadstairs. Apart from a military career, he has spent all his life in Broadstairs and is very proud of the town and its people. His knowledge of the best place to get a photograph, the best way to walk to Ramsgate and even when the rain would start (as it surely did) were all delivered with the same gentle manner – and I just want to say thank you.

If I could count on meeting a Kevin on every day of my walk, I am in for an extremely enjoyable summer. Thank you.

Peter Dixon, Princes Risborough, Bucks

Oliver's masterpiece

Finally, after years of getting it so wrong, Ashford has some art it can be proud of with the excellent new artwork painted on the side of International House.

I have been waiting with bated breath since Oliver Winconek first installed Nimby to see if he would be commissioned by the local authority to create something permanent for the town. Oliver is one of the key figures in the contemporary art scene so it's fantastic to be able to see an example of his work in such a public space.

He has taken a dark and grimy wall and turned it into a masterpiece. Fingers crossed it gets the recognition it deserves and Oliver is asked to paint more pieces in and around the town centre. His work is always a joy to see.

David Harris, Ashford

In for (nearly) a penny

The Government was going to increase tax on petrol by 3p per litre from April 1.

After receiving advice (or otherwise) from several quarters, it decided to phase the increase over three dates. The first increase was 1.2p per litre April 1. In Medway and Sittingbourne, petrol prices varied between 116.9p to 119.9p – always 0.9p!

By my calculations, if you add 1.2p to a figure of 0.9p, it should mean that the price of petrol should be 118.1p to 121.1p.

My question is: why did petrol stations, supermarkets and the like increase the prices by an additional 0.8p per litre?

Why do petrol prices always have to be something 0.9p. They work in decimal points and it can't be rocket science to price petrol other than 0.9p per litre. All this means is suppliers of petrol are ripping off the public yet again and making more profit from us to the tune of an extra 0.8p per litre.

Bob Holder, Gillingham

TLC for beloved NHS

Seeing the NHS has given all of us a world-class service for over 60 years now, and she's up to her eyeballs in debt, why shouldn't we, her past and present patients and service users, lend a helping hand by starting an NHS help fund. It could even lead the way to a national debt recovery.

The money is out there, all we need is the will to tap into it. We may well have taken the NHS for granted over the years and as a result taken it to the dogs, but it's not too late.

I am willing to start the fund rolling with an amount I can afford as a retired nurse. It's a leap in faith, but every journey starts with the first step. The Labour health minister who founded the NHS must be turning in his grave and wondering why the service is fast becoming a patient itself.

We owe her a little tender loving care now she is ailing under the stress and strain of modern lifestyles. Will I be a voice in the wilderness on this one, or could the NHS serve another 60 and more years?

Bob Bedwell, Sidcup

Chilling climate facts

Like Mr Granger, I get fed up with the baloney spouted by so-called experts on climate change. Worst of them is Al Gore, plus the head of the UN climate department who stated that the Himalayan glaciers would vanish by 2025. Both relied on incorrect information.

There are dozens of other experts who I suspect have more to do with claims for more research funding. It may be worthwhile for some of those experts to wait for the reports of the tests on the Kauri trees in the peat bogs of New Zealand. The trees have been preserved for 30,000 years and could give facts going back to the last ice age. Plus the experts may like to study the link between regular changes in the Earth's orbital cycle and climate. Also, is there a link with solar activity?

Mr Duff may be interested in answering this: in view of the fact the Earth's population before 1914 was under two billion (it is approaching eight billion now) and there were very few cars, fewer aircraft and no jets, why was the iceberg the Titanic struck so far south? The liner was at 41.46N 50.14W.

Doug Cheverst, Bexleyheath

May 6 poll is irrelevant

I think the three main political parties are an insult, not only to the people of this country now but, all of those that have given their lives to keep us a free nation.

Not one of these parties will listen to what the people want and they do not even have the guts to tell us all the so-called benefits of being in Europe. From where I and many others stand, being in Europe is destroying everything this country stands for.

The unelected and unaccountable government of this country is already in place in Brussels, so May 6 is an irrelevance.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

Salute to brave crews

I would like to invite the people of Margate to join me and fellow charter trustees on Tuesday, April 27, at 11am, at a Folded Wings memorial service on the clifftop by the Westgate Pavilion.

There we will commemorate the bravery of pilots and crew who lost their lives over Margate during World War Two and in particular, this year, the crew of the two USAAF Liberator, B24 bombers, which crashed in the same hour that day, on the Thanet coast, will be remembered, when the dog tags of one of the crew men, Lt Hafner, recovered from the beach at Foreness Point are formally returned to the representative of the United States Air Force.

The USAF has expressed support for the service and, weather permitting, there will be a flypast of F-15 fighters from Lakenheath, prior to the service. A USAF honour guard and Lieutenant Colonel Jeffrey Price, the Assistant Air Attaché, will be at the service, along with the Royal British Legion and other veterans' organisations. The parade, once assembled at Westgate College for the Deaf, in Sea Road, will process at 10.45am to the war memorial on the clifftop, overlooking the site where one of the Liberators came down on April 27, 1944, thus avoiding the town and a greater loss of life. For more information, contact the mayor's parlour on 01843 221704

Cllr Michael Tomlinson, Mayor of Margate

Liberal with the facts

Thank you for publishing my letter ('All of the candidates deserve a fair hearing', last week). I need to apologise to you and your readers because my letter contained an unintentional factual error.

I wrote that the Liberals last held a seat in Kent at Sevenoaks, which they lost in 1924. However, in the 1929 General Election the Reverend Roderick Kedward, a nonconformist minister, won a remarkable victory in the Ashford constituency as the Liberal candidate.

His campaign was based on opposition to the compulsory collection of tithes for the upkeep of Church of England clergymen. The Rev Kedward lost his seat in 1931.

The Liberals also won Orpington in the famous 1962 by-election, holding the seat in two subsequent General Elections before losing it in 1970. But, of course, Orpington is now in Greater London. I do not think my error affects the opinions expressed in my previous letter.

Frederic Stansfield, Canterbury

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Painted with success

A PAINTER and decorator has been entered into the finals of the Dulux Decorator Centre's apprentice of the year competition.

Aron Baker, a first year apprentice at North West Kent College in Gravesend, beat 11 other apprentices to scoop first place in the Waltham Forest heats.

The 18-year-old, from Welling, will now have to compete against seven other regional winners in July for a chance to be crowned the 2010 Dulux Decorator Centre's apprentice of the year.

Aron, who had to successfully complete several elements of practical work, including wallpapering, said: "I am over the Moon to have won the heat.

"The competition was really tough and definitely put us all to the test, so to have been placed first is a real achievement."

International lesson

A GROUP of Malaysian students have graduated with primary education degrees after a joint initiative between the Malaysian government and Canterbury Christ Church University.

Some 129 students gained degrees through the scheme, which also received backing from the University of Hertfordshire, and Deakin and Queensland University of Technology in Australia.

The students studied at institutes in Batu Pahat and Kuala Terengannu in Malaysia, with primary teacher tutors from Canterbury travelling to Malaysia.

Sue Kendall-Seattar, from the Kent university, said: "The graduation enabled us to join together to celebrate the remarkable dedication and achievements of the students."

Canterbury Christ Church was selected to carry out the project due to its consistent high grading by Ofsted.

Take a new direction

TWO artists from the University of Kent are holding a joint exhibition at London's Canary Wharf.

Paintings by director of fine arts Angus Pryor and sculptures by William Henry, a graduate of the university's associate college fine art programme in Ashford, will display their work at the West Wintergarden from April19-30.

The exhibition, entitled Post-Conceptual Art Practice: New Directions – Part One, aims to show new perspectives on the adaptations of media by modern artists.

Dr Grant Pooke, of the university's fine art MA programme, said: "It's an opportunity to take a fresh look at how contemporary artists are revising the mediums of painting and sculpture in light of the ready made and the legacy of modernism."

The exhibition will include artist in residence days on Tuesdays, April 20 and 27.

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Gallery focuses on the T Word

By **MARIJKE COX**
marijke.cox@kosmedia.co.uk

A MICHELIN-listed chef has officially opened a new training restaurant designed for hospitality and catering students.

Scott Goss, who runs the popular Swan restaurant in West Malling, cut the ribbon at the launch of The Gallery at North West Kent College in Gravesend.

The new facility offers students the chance to work in a professional kitchen, giving them on-the-job training while studying for their qualifications.

And while they learn the tricks of the trade, guests, college staff and other students can enjoy their food, which is prepared under the supervision of highly-qualified tutors and served by trainee waiting staff.

Duncan Weetman, associate head of hospitality, said he hopes the launch will help forge links with other Kent colleges to share their expertise.

"We have had students working at the Cheltenham Festival from both Mid-Kent and North West Kent College," he said.

"We also want to build strong partnerships with local businesses to provide training solutions for their employees and, more importantly, provide good work placements to enable students to develop in the industry."

Mr Goss, who appeared on Gordon Ramsey's The F Word, already takes students from the college for work experience.

At the opening of The Gallery he spoke to guests about his own experiences as a young chef and the opportunities available to those seeking a career in the industry.

His appearance on Channel 4's The F Word saw The Swan earn a place among 18 top restaurants in the search for the Best Local Restaurant in the UK.

The restaurant was narrowly beaten in the semi-finals by The Pheasant in Huntingdon in Cambridgeshire.

COOKING: Scott Goss opened The Gallery

Speaking about professional cooking in a Channel 4 interview, the 39-year-old chef said fresh produce and stretching resources is vital.

"The idea of never throwing anything away is something that gets drummed into chefs in college," he said.

The catering course at North West Kent College has been successful in past years.

In 2007, 41 per cent of the catering students were in work and 46 per cent in full-time higher level study within three months of completing their courses.

For information about the courses go to www.courses.nwkcollege.ac.uk or call the college's free helpline on 0800 074 1447.

For more information about The Gallery, email thegalleries@nwkcollege.ac.uk or call Sue on 01322 629608.

To discuss placing your company's advertisement in this section call 01303 817056

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How to apply....

Closing date 26th April 2010. For further information or to apply online visit **www.mcch.co.uk** or email us for an application form at **jobs@mcch.co.uk** alternatively call our recruitment line on **0845 600 1552**. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.

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For an informal discussion of the above post please contact Susan Wyles on 01233 639383 or 07725 433267.

An application form and job description can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote reference number 652.

Closing date: 7 May 2010. Interview date: 19 May 2010 in Ashford.

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Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview dates: 13 & 14 May 2010 in Maidstone.

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£19,126 - £23,708 pro rata, pa • 15 hours per week • Based Canterbury

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Working in a demanding environment, you should have excellent typing skills and be confident in your ability to use Microsoft Office to a high standard. As the author of the Generic SPI service's quarterly newsletter, you will be required to demonstrate a commitment to keeping up-to-date with the key issues within the field whilst also using your own creativity and innovative approach to communicate the success of the service to external organisations.

The ability to collate and input data accurately onto a database whilst managing spreadsheets on Microsoft Excel is essential. You will also be able to demonstrate an accomplished style of communicating effectively with a wide cross-section of other off-site professionals in a factual and concise manner. You need to be able to prioritise you own workload and respond appropriately to referrals within the service's targeted deadlines. **Ref: 650.**

For further information about the post, please contact the SPI Functional Specialist Lead - Toni Howes on 01227 454740 or the Administration Functional Specialist Lead - Christine Gordon on 01795 590795 ex 2.

Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010.
Interview date: TBC.

Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number.

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Scott Care Ltd

www.scottcare.co.uk 0845 680 05 06
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Jobs for Kent continues on page 61...

it will never be just another job

mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society.

Support Worker x 2 **Ref: 701/E**
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How to apply....

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...Jobs for Kent continued from page 28

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Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

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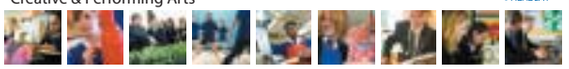

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For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392.

Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010

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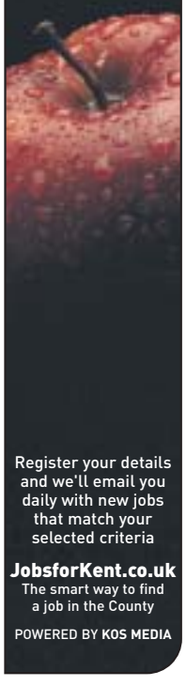

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Salary: Kent Scheme 6 (£18,471 - £20,262 pro rata per annum)

We are looking for people with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with both students (aged 11-18) and staff, the ability to manage a variety of situations, be calm and work well under pressure.

The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment.

Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

For an application form please contact:
Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED.
Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Closing Date: Midday Friday 23rd April 2010
Interviews: To be confirmed

Pent Valley

achievement for all

MidKent College

MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009.

Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus.

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Salary: c£46k

Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section.

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Salary: c£46k

Comprising the A Level, Access and Higher Education curriculum areas, this Faculty is based at both our new Medway Campus and at the nearby University of Kent which accommodates most of the Access and HE provision. The successful candidate will have a strong track record of leading within these curriculum areas and in improving outcomes for students.

Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010
Interview date: Friday 6 May 2010

Benefits Include:
• Benenden Healthcare • Pension • Generous Annual Leave • Flexible working

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer

Action for Business College · Investors in Diversity · Positive About Disabled People · RBLI · Investor in People

Bradstow School

Bradstow is a fascinating and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19, set in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children with autism and severe learning difficulties, and have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

FEMALE WAKING NIGHT ATTENDANT

Salary: £14,772 – £16,686 plus one third night allowance
36.75 hours per week, Term Time Only

To be responsible for the supervision and care of the students at night.
There will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid. Due to the nature of the personal care being provided, Section 7 (3) (a) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 applies.

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

For an application form and information pack please call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine), or email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 23rd April 2010.
Interviews will be held on 4th May 2010.

All shortlisted applicants will be expected to visit the school before interview.
All appointments are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure CRB check.

Ofsted · Investors in People · Healthy School · CACHE · BCS

www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

Admin Assistant/Receptionist
required for June 2010
Delce Children's Centre, Delce Infant School, Fleet Road, Rochester ME1 2QA
Tel 01634 844127
Email: office@delceinf.medway.sch.uk

TERM TIME TEACHERS
TEACHERS AND COVER SUPERVISORS URGENTLY REQUIRED
MAIDSTONE, ASHFORD, MEDWAY TOWNS, THANET & DARTFORD AREAS
Call and speak with friendly, qualified education staff
Tel No: 01892 676076
website: www.termtimeteachers.co.uk
e-mail: office@termtimeteachers.co.uk

The John Wallis Church of England Academy (proposed)
Director of Finance and Operations
Salary range: £55,000 - £65,000
Applications are invited for the above post at The John Wallis Church of England Academy, which will open in September 2010 replacing Christ Church School, Ashford. The Academy will cater for 1050 students aged 11-16 with a post 16 provision for a further 250 students.
This is an exciting opportunity to join a newly appointed Principal Designate as part of the Senior Leadership Team to lead this new academy which will move into new buildings in September 2013. Candidates must possess an appropriate relevant qualification, have executive management skills, proven financial management skills and strategic vision and experience of working at a senior management level. This post offers tremendous scope for initiative, flair and creativity.
Closing date for receipt of application is 12 noon Wednesday 28th April
Interviews will be held Tuesday 11th May 2010.
Further details and application pack from jireland@diocant.org or telephone 01227 45940. If you would like an informal discussion with John McParland, Principal Designate, regarding this post please call 07852 236444.
www.proposedacademyforashford.org
Canterbury Christ Church University
BENENDEN
Kent County Council

Make this your next mouse click

JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County
POWERED BY KOS MEDIA

JobsforKent.co.uk

Accountancy

Accounts Assistant

Ramsgate
Salary: Salary negotiable depending on experience
A flexible accounts person is required, particularly experienced in all aspects of purchase ledger including invoice processing, reconciling statements, weekly payments, with experience on computerised accounting system. Monday to Friday 9.00am until 5.30pm. Please send CV's to Alistair Mackay-Miller, Piper Double Glazing Limited, 140 Newington Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 6PP or by e-mail. We are an Equal Opportunities Employer.
To apply/more information:
Alistair Mackay-Miller
Piper Windows
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email ron@piperwindows.co.uk

Finding staff
24-7
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Service Admin/Telephone Support

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: £7.50ph
Invicta Motors are a rapidly expanding Motor dealer in Kent who currently represent the Ford, Honda and Mazda franchises across five locations. Due to a recent acquisition we are currently recruiting for the following positions within our Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells branches. Service Admin/Telephone Support at Tunbridge Wells (part time) Hours will be 1.00-6.00 pm with an hourly rate of £7.50ph The successful candidate will be responsible for sending service/MOT reminders, making outgoing telephone calls to secure bookings and post service follow up calls. If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com Or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors 59-61 Sturry Road Canterbury, CT 1DR Or telephone for an application form on 01227 762 777 Please state which branch you are applying for.
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com

Service receptionist

Maidstone
Salary: £20k
Invicta Motors are a rapidly expanding Motor dealer in Kent who currently represent the Ford, Honda and Mazda franchises across five locations. Due to a recent acquisition we are currently recruiting for the following positions within our Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells branches. Service receptionist at Maidstone/Tunbridge Wells for Honda and Mazda We are looking for someone with excellent people and admin skills to work on our service reception. There is a £20K basic salary with the potential to earn significant additional bonus. If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com Or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors 59-61 Sturry Road Canterbury, CT 1DR Or telephone for an application form on 01227 762 777 Please state which branch you are applying for.
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com

Administrator - Generic Structured Psychosocial Interventions (SPI) Service

Canterbury
Salary: £19,126 - £23,708 pro rata, pa
Closing Date: Friday 30 April 2010
KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. Administrator - Generic Structured Psychosocial Interventions (SPI) Service £19,126 - £23,708 pro rata, pa • 15 hours per week • Based Canterbury As an experienced and capable Administrator you will be able to work independently and provide efficient and high quality administrative support to KCA's Generic SPI service. Working in a demanding environment, you should have excellent typing skills and be confident in your ability to use Microsoft Office to a high standard.As the author of the Generic SPI service's quarterly newsletter, you will be required to demonstrate a commitment to keeping up-to-date with the key issues within the field whilst also using your own creativity and innovative approach to communicate the success of the service to external organisations. The ability to collate and input data accurately onto a database whilst managing spreadsheets on Microsoft Excel is essential.You will also be able to demonstrate an accomplished style of communicating effectively with a wide cross-section of other off-site professionals in a factual and concise manner. You need to be able to prioritise you own workload and respond appropriately to referrals within the service's targeted deadlines. Ref: 650. For further information about the post, please contact the SPI Functional Specialist Lead -Toni Howes on 01227 454740 or the Administration Functional Specialist Lead - Christine Gordon on 01795 590795 ex 2.
Closing date: Friday 30 April 2010. Interview date:TBC. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Please quote the relevant reference number. KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824 www.kca.org.uk Progressive, Responsive, Effective
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 650
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

WAIT STAFF

Ramsgate
Salary: TBA
WAIT STAFF wanted for fine dining restaurant in Ramsgate. Experience essential. Must be able to work weekends and evenings. Please send CV to info@ageandsons.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Age & Sons
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email info@ageandsons.co.uk

Assistant Chef

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Assistant Chef required for busy country pub with good reputation for fine food Apply to Eric or Helen (between 9 & 12 noon) Tel: 01303 844663
To apply/more information:
Jack Daw Inn
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 844663
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

CLAIMS CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE MANAGER

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salary + excellent benefits
Closing Date: 19 April 2010
CLAIMS CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE MANAGER Competitive salary + excellent benefits Folkestone/Thanet Delivering first-class service is second nature at Saga. Whenever our customers make a motor insurance claim, we want them to find the experience as efficient as possible. That's where you come in. Splitting your time between our Folkestone and Thanet sites, you'll manage the performance of around 150 staff. That means driving continuous improvement by instilling best practice, setting targets and shaping strategies. And fostering a culture where teams feel empowered and motivated. To meet the challenge, you'll be a dynamic people manager who inspires others at all levels. Able to juggle priorities and meet deadlines, your superb project management skills will help you turn ambitious ideas into everyday processes. If you have what it takes, the career opportunities are outstanding in a fast-moving environment that's grown by over 50% in the last 18 months. Ready for action? To apply, please send your CV and covering letter including current salary to Alice Forsyth, HR Officer, Saga Group Limited, Enbrook Park, Folkestone, Kent CT20 3SE or human.resources@saga.co.uk Please quote reference SVS385/KOS. Closing date: 19 April 2010. saga.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS385/KOS
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Telephone Interviewers

Orpington
Salary: TBA
The Business Advantage Group plc. requires Telephone Interviewers (English and foreign language speakers) ? DAY AND EVENING short term market research projects ? Excellent telephone manner ? Prevous experience useful ? Office based – Petts Wood - Competitive hourly rates. Email your CV to: stevie.marrett@business-advantage.com
To apply/more information:
Business Advantage Group plc
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email stevie.marrett@business-advantage.com

Debt Negotiator

Bromley
Salary: £15,500 - £17,500 OTE Debt Negotiator – Bromley - £15,500 - £17,500 OTE (40hrs per week on a shift basis) Aktiv Kapital is seeking driven, ambitious, confident individuals in return for:- Ø Excellent basic salary Ø Performance related bonuses Ø 20 days holiday (rising to max 25 with service) Ø Employee discounts and offers (AK Xtras) Ø Employee recognition scheme We are looking for exceptional people to join us and help us deliver a world class business. If you think you have what it takes to join us please email your CV to jobs@aktiv-kapital.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Aktiv Kapital
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email jobs@aktiv-kapital.co.uk

Domestic

Cleaners

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Home Cleaning Company requires FULL TIME STAFF Tonbridge Based Company Mon-Fri 7.45am-4.15pm No Bank Holidays, Weekends or Evenings Drivers only 01732 359500
To apply/more information:
Merry Maid
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 359500
Email merrymaidsales@btconnect.com

CLEANERS

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
CLEANERS needed, Canterbury, Wed & Fri, 15:30 – 17:30. For details please call 01622 882492
To apply/more information:
Minster Cleaning Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 882492
Email appl

Education, Teacher, School

Part-time Teacher of Music

Aylesford
Salary: MPS
Closing Date: 19/04/2010
To cover terms 5 and 6 Aylesford School – Sports College is an innovative forward looking Specialist Sports College. We have a strong community ethos where we put the learner at the heart of everything we do. At Aylesford School – Sports College we can offer you:- • A brand new school. •Outstanding new facilities in all areas. •A highly regarded CPD programme with personal professional pathways. •A buzzing and vibrant staff who are friendly and keen to help one another. •A forward looking curriculum with individualised pathways for students. We are looking for a committed professional who:- • Can motivate students through the curriculum. •Has the desire to make the difference. • Is focussed on developing their career further. For an application pack please contact Miss Jill McKenna on 01622 717341 or email your request to jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk Please note that this school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.
To apply/more information:
Jill McKenna
Aylesford School - Sports College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 717341
Email jill.mckenna@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

CLASSROOM MANAGERS

Folkestone
Salary: £18,471 - £20,262 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Midday Friday 23rd April 2010
CLASSROOM MANAGERS REQUIRED Hours: 8.30am – 3.30pm, 32 hours a week, term-time only (39 weeks) **Salary:** Kent Scheme 6 (£18,471 - £20,262 pro rata per annum) We are looking for people with excellent communication skills, the ability to interact well with both students (aged 11-18) and staff, the ability to manage a variety of situations, be calm and work well under pressure. The main role is to supervise and provide instruction to students in the absence of subject teachers for lessons provided. The Classroom Manager will also be responsible for carrying out other tasks that are related to the learning environment. Offer of appointment is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. This school is committed to recruiting with care and safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. For an application form please contact: Miss S Spratley, Pent Valley Technology College, Surrenden Road, Folkestone, Kent. CT19 4ED. Email: samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218 **Closing Date:** Midday Friday 23rd April 2010 Interviews: To be confirmed
To apply/more information:
Pent Vally Tech
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 277161 ext 2218
Email samantha.spratley@pent-valley.kent.sch.uk

Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering

Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
MidKent College is a large and successful College operating on two main campuses serving Medway and Maidstone. Our new, state of the art £86 million Medway Campus is located next to the Royal School of Military Engineering where the College trains soldiers under a very large construction and engineering contract. The College was graded 'good' overall with 'outstanding' Capacity to Improve at its Ofsted inspection in March 2009. Following the retirement of two of our longest-serving managers, we are seeking to recruit dynamic, progressive and enthusiastic individuals to join our committed leadership team at the Medway Campus. Head of Faculty Advanced Engineering Salary: c£46k Manufacturing and Engineering have benefited from a substantial investment in new equipment and we are now looking to expand training opportunities within this area. In addition to providing effective management of the faculty, the successful candidate will be expected to lead on the development of STEM initiatives including a new Motor Engineering section. Closing date: Thursday 29 April 2010 Interview date: Thursday 6 May 2010 Benefits Include: • Benenden Healthcare • Pension • Generous Annual Leave • Flexible working MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance. The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure. Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number. MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Head of Faculty Higher and Academic Studies

Medway
Salary: c£46k
Closing Date: Thursday 29 April 2010
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 383102
Email job.applications@midkent.ac.uk

Director of Finance and Operations

Ashford
Salary: Salary range: £55,000 - £65,000
Closing Date: 12 noon Wednesday 28th April
To apply/more information:
Ashford Christ Church
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 45940
Email jireland@diocant.org

Learning Support Assistant (AEN)

Canterbury
Salary: £14,311 - £16,225 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 3rd May 2010
To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392
Email m.wigington@spiresacademy.com

Administration Assistant

Canterbury
Salary: £16,225 - £17,046 pro rata
Closing Date: Monday 3rd May 2010
Administration Assistant Academy Pay Scheme Level 4: £16,225 - £17,046 • 20 hours per week • Term time + inset Spires Academy opened in September 2007 and achieved excellent results and value-added in each of it's first two years. Student numbers in year 7 have doubled and we are rapidly moving towards our target roll of 600. Planning for the new building is underway and there is a real sense of optimism in our community, a 'can do' mentality. Following internal promotion we require an Administration Assistant to join our Support & Guidance Team. The ability to work well under pressure is essential as are excellent organisational, interpersonal and communication skills. For further details and an application pack, please contact Marion Wigington at m.wigington@spiresacademy.com or by telephone on 01227 710392. Closing date: Monday 3rd May 2010 Spires Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. The successful applicant will be subject to appropriate

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To apply/more information:
Spires Academy
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 710392
Email m.wigington @spiresacademy.com

NVQ ASSESSORS

Sandwich
Salary: TBA
NVQ ASSESSORS REQUIRED Peripatetic/independent To join our friendly team of professionals. Must be occupationally competent and able to assess up to level 4 in: Health and Social Care Children and Young people Adult Care Care Management Management and Leadership Please contact us on: 01304-614765 www.elitesocialcareprofessionals.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Elite Social
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304-614765
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

Engineers

N/A
Salary: $100k - 200k
Contract based in Warri, Nigeria Pentro Drilling is looking for qualified candidates from various engineering field to work towards to fulfillment of our ongoing project Pentro Drilling is looking for Engineering & Aviation Applications of a highly skilled candidate who wants to get in on the ground floor of a very promising opportunity. The Engineering Applications will provide leadership to Engineering team and act in a lead engineer capacity. The Engineers will be responsible for making design recommendations based on customer requirements, as well as configuring and managing the assembly and testing of systems. Responsibilities: • Manage the daily activities of the Engineering function including prioritizing tasks, managing various projects and checking subordinate's work • Make recommendations for modifications of existing product catalog or for completely new designs • Utilize Solidworks to develop design schematics to be shared with customers, R&D and Manufacturing • Assemble and test configurations to meet customer needs • Carrying out quality control checks as defined on quality plans as directed by construction superintendent. Qualifications: • Bachelor's degree in Engineering strongly preferred. • 3+ years in a Engineering role and leadership responsibilities • Professional communication skills • Ability to discuss and solve complex problems with manufacturing departments, contractors, suppliers and customers • Excellent technical skills • Some background in extrusions, • Time and commitment to devote to a startup in high growth phase Benefits: Competitive base salary along with equity incentive participation, bonus plan and benefits including health care.
To apply/more information:
Tony Ayo
Pentro Drilling
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 002348039736271
Email careers@pentrodrilling.com

HR, Recruitment

SENIOR RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
SENIOR RECRUITMENT CONSULTANT Top basic + uncapped commission Due to continued expansion, we are searching for dynamic & experienced Consultant with exceptional business development skills to compliment commercial division Telephone Joe Brady (01303 220099) for a confidential Chat or email your CV joe@rsfl.co.uk RECRUITMENT SOLUTIONS (FOLKESTONE) LTD Oak House, 115 Sandgate Rd, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2BL
To apply/more information:
Recruitment Solutions (Folkestone) Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 220099
Email joe@rsfl.co.uk

Management, Senior Positions

Claims Customer Experience Manager

Folkestone
Salary: Competitive salary + excellent benefits
Closing Date: 19 April 2010
Delivering first-class service is second nature at Saga. Whenever our customers make a motor insurance claim, we want them to find the experience as efficient as possible. That's where you come in. Splitting your time between our Folkestone and Thanet sites, you'll manage the performance of around 150 staff. That means driving continuous improvement by instilling best practice, setting targets and shaping strategies. And fostering a culture where teams feel empowered and motivated. To meet the challenge, you'll be a dynamic people manager who inspires others at all levels. Able to juggle priorities and meet deadlines, your superb project management skills will help you turn ambitious ideas into everyday processes. If you have what it takes, the career opportunities are outstanding in a fast-moving environment that's grown by over 50% in the last 18 months. Ready for action? To apply, please send your CV and covering letter including current salary to contacts below. Folkestone and Thanet areas.
To apply/more information:
Alice Forsyth
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS385/KOS
Email human.resources@saga.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Skilled Fiat Technician

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
ATA level 2 or above Fiat experience/training would be advantageous Please telephone 01795 423815 For further details
To apply/more information:
JG Burgess
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Vehicle Technicians

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Invicta Motors are a rapidly expanding Motor dealer in Kent who currently represent the Ford, Honda and Mazda franchises across five locations. Due to a recent acquisition we are currently recruiting for the following positions within our Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells branches. Vehicle Technicians at Maidstone/Tunbridge Wells (Full Time) We are looking for qualified vehicle technicians to join our busy Honda and Mazda dealerships. Top rates of pay offered with excellent bonus If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com Or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors 59-61 Sturry Road Canterbury, CT 1DR Or telephone for an application form on 01227 762 777 Please state which branch you are applying for.
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper @invictamotors.com

Vacancies filled fast online with
JobsforKent.co.uk
To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Sales Executives

Kent
Salary: TBA
Invicta Motors are a rapidly expanding Motor dealer in Kent who currently represent the Ford, Honda and Mazda franchises across five locations. Due to a recent acquisition we are currently recruiting for the following positions within our Ashford, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells branches. Sales Executives Ashford (Ford),Maidstone (Honda) Tunbridge Wells (Honda) The successful candidate must have previous car sales experience, be ambitious, self-motivated and commercially minded with an aptitude to developing the business. If your skills match those required, we are keen to hear from you. Please send your CV to Mollie Cooper by e-mail mollie.cooper@invictamotors.com Or post to Mollie Cooper, Invicta Motors 59-61 Sturry Road Canterbury, CT 1DR Or telephone for an application form on 01227 762 777 Please state which branch you are applying for.
To apply/more information:
Invicta Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 762 777
Email mollie.cooper @invictamotors.com

Not for profit, Charities

Club Play Workers

Thanet
Salary: Zero Hours
Closing Date: 23/04/10
Club Play Workers – Thanet & Herne Bay East Kent Mencap operates several youth and holiday clubs for disabled young people across the area. We are looking to recruit one more play leader and several play workers on a sessional basis for out of school activity clubs. Play Club Leader - YPL0001 Salary Scale £8.87 - £9.25 per hour subject to experience and qualifications Play Club Workers - YPL0002 Salary Scale £4.07 – £8.49 per hour subject to experience and qualifications. These posts are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. The closing date is 23rd April 2010. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda Salisbury Office Co-ordinator 01843 224482 Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: YPL0001 & YPW0002
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury @eastkentmencap.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Area Manager

Kent
Salary: TBA
At Scott Care Ltd, we offer a range of care & support services for people who live at home & need help to remain independent. We hold company inductions on a monthly basis & our next induction starts on 4th May 2010. Now we're looking for the following to join our team: Area Manager - Full Time, Salary & Company Vehicle. Location: Kent You will be the nominated individual within the company, responsible for setting up new branches of our service. You will liaise with service users, care managers, contracts officers from the local authority & CQC. You will initially take on the Service Managers job description for each new branch yourself & recruit & train the new team. Candidate would ideally possess NVQ RMA Level 4 qualification or managerial background in care. www.scottcare.co.uk 0845 680 05 06 scottcare@gmail.com
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Care Workers

Kent
Salary: TBA
At Scott Care Ltd, we offer a range of care & support services for people who live at home & need help to remain independent. We hold company inductions on a monthly basis & our next induction starts on 4th May 2010. Now we're looking for the following to join our team: Care Workers - Full Time (mornings, evenings & alternate weekends) & Part Time (evenings or weekends) Location: Medway, Swale, Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks From personal care to helping out with shopping, you'll be a vital social link for those who rarely go out – or simply can't. You'll need a car & mobile phone, but we'll provide a uniform & pay for mileage. Experience isn't essential, as we offer full training. www.scottcare.co.uk 0845 680 05 06 scottcare@gmail.com
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Team Leaders

Medway
Salary: TBA
At Scott Care Ltd, we offer a range of care & support services for people who live at home & need help to remain independent. We hold company inductions on a monthly basis & our next induction starts on 4th May 2010. Now we're looking for the following to join our team: Team Leaders - Full Time. Salary. Location: Medway With a team of care workers to lead, you'll supervise, manage & monitor their progress. That means handling care assessments, reviews, spot checks & more. You will be required to take part in 'on call' responsibilities. This role could be perfect for a care worker looking to take the next step, experience is essential. www.scottcare.co.uk 0845 680 05 06 scottcare@gmail.com
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 680 05 06
Email scottcare@gmail.com

Support Worker x 2

Ashford
Salary: £16,607-£17,494
Closing Date: 26th April 2010
To apply/more information:
MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 701/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

Community Support Worker

Ashford
Salary: £16,040-£16,896 pro rata
Closing Date: 26th April 2010
mcch is a charity committed to designing and delivering services to adults with learning disabilities and mental health needs. It's people like you who empower each individual by giving them more independence and continue to be part of society. Community Support Worker 12 month contract Ref: 705/E £16,040-£16,896 pro rata PT 20 hrs Ashford, Canterbury & surrounding villages We are looking for an enthusiastic, self motivated person to join our team working with people who have a learning disability or mental ill health. Applicants must be flexible, reliable and able to promote and support individual's health, wellbeing and independence. Experience in Learning Disabilities or Mental Health would be advantageous. If you are looking for a job that can be both challenging and rewarding apply now. A full driving licence and access to a car is required for this post. Closing date 26th April 2010. For further information or to apply online visit www.mcch.co.uk or email us for an application form at jobs@mcch.co.uk alternatively call our recruitment line on 0845 600 1552. Please quote ref. We also have large type/Braille versions available on request. All appointments are subject to a Criminal Records Disclosure.
To apply/more information:
MCCH
Quoting Job Ref: 705/E
Tel: 0845 600 1552
Email jobs@mcch.co.uk

Community DrugWorker

Kent
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 pa
Closing Date: Friday 30 April 2010
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 656
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

COMMUNITY CARERS

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
MERIDIAN CARE Require COMMUNITY CARERS in Canterbury Full paid training given. Competitive rates of pay with enhancement for NVQ qualified. Mileage allowance and full support given for both new and experienced carers. Own transport essential. For Canterbury, Deal and Sandwich call 01227 712300 Alternatively email us at MeridianCbury@aol.com
To apply/more information:
Meridian Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 712300
Email MeridianCbury@aol.com

Support Workers

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 7th May 2010.
Due to rapid growth we require Support Workers in Maidstone and the surrounding areas to work early mornings, evenings and weekends. Car drivers with own transport essential. Presland Care provides quality support to enable people to remain independent and live in their own homes. For an application pack contact Jane or Rita on 01634 673333. We are actively encouraging equal opportunities. Successful applications will be dependent on a clear Enhanced CRB check and two satisfactory references. Closing date for applications Friday 7th May 2010.
To apply/more information:
Presland Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 673333
Email info@preslandcare.co.uk

RGN (NIGHTS)

Chislehurst
Salary: £14.63 PER HOUR
Closing Date: 30 April 2010
To apply/more information:
RMBI
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0208 467 0081
Email princegeorge @rmbi.org.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

PsychologicalTherapist

Ashford
Salary: £21,519 - £27,849 pro rata
Closing Date: 7 May 2010
To apply/more information:
KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 652
Tel: 01795 590635
Email applications @jobsforkent.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Sales People

Kent
Salary: TBA
Black Tie Foods Ltd Sales People required No experience necessary. Full training and vehicle provided. Call 01732 760484
To apply/more information:
Black Tie Foods Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 760484
Email blacktie@btconnect.com

Manager

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
Manager A role requiring superb sales skills, management experience and a strong customer focus. Bridal Sales Consultant A dedicated sales professional with retail experience to work either part or full time. Send a cv to: Go Bridal, 50 Grosvenor Road Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AS or email maria@ pantilesbride.com
To apply/more information:
Pantiles Bride
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email maria@pantilesbride.com

Bridal Sales Consultant

Tunbridge Wells
Salary: TBA
Manager A role requiring superb sales skills, management experience and a strong customer focus. Bridal Sales Consultant A dedicated sales professional with retail experience to work either part or full time. Send a cv to: Go Bridal, 50 Grosvenor Road Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AS or email maria@pantilesbride.com
To apply/more information:
Pantiles Bride
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email maria@ pantilesbride.com

Self Employed Book Seller

Kent
Salary: OTE £45K PA
Run your own exciting bookselling business with the UK's biggest direct bookseller! OTE £45K PA We welcome applications from both men and women Full-time opportunity Join the Book People as an independent sales distributor and you'll have the best of both worlds – working as your own boss with the support and backing of an award-winning company. • We help you set up • We keep your initial outlay low • We provide full training • Ideal for husband-and-wife teams • Huge potential earnings To find out more call 0845 606 4276 or check our regularly updated information pages at www.thebookpeople.co.uk/distributors
To apply/more information:
Index Books Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0845 606 4276
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

Bookshop Manager

Sandwich
Salary: TBA
Bookshop Manager Position available The job requires a passion for books, coupled with a strong retail knowledge. Responsible for managing key performance indicators and financial targets Apply in writing with CV to Mrs Vance, 60 King Street, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9BL
To apply/more information:
Sandwich Bookshop
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@ jobsforkent.co.uk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

10/01037/FUL **The Bull The Street, Benenden**
- Picket fence and chipping surface finish to external seating area (LB) (CA)

10/01063/FUL **Benenden Girls School Cranbrook Road, Benenden**
- Formation of hardstanding using grasscrete for the use of an overflow car park adjacent to theatre (permanent use). Siting of two mobile classrooms to provide teaching rooms to replace demolished Jubilee building (Temporary use) (LB)

10/01150/LBC **Mill Street Cottage Mill Street, Benenden**
- Listed Building Consent to retain lean to porch already carried out (LB)

10/00970/FUL **Oast House At Park Farm, Capel**
- Conversion of Oast House to detached dwelling with amenity space, car parking, garage and store, and access (LB) (PROW)

10/00971/LBC **Oast House At Park Farm, Capel**
- Listed Building Consent - Conversion of Oast House to detached dwelling with amenity space, car parking, garage and store, and access (LB)

10/01073/CAC **Cranbrook Engineering Ltd Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Conservation Area Consent - Demolition of existing building in connection with redevelopment (CA)

10/01091/HOUSE **60 London Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Culverden**
- Addition of rear verandah and new external steps/balustrading (LB) (CA)

10/01100/LBC **West High View Cottage Queen Street, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent: Alterations to existing dormer windows. Replacement of existing upvc sash windows with timber. Refurbishment of existing tile hanging including insulation (LB)

10/01066/HOUSE **The Orchard London Road, Southborough North**
- Two-storey extension (CA)

10/00954/HOUSE **Langton Lodge The Green, Speldhurst**
- First floor extension and internal alterations (CA) (LB)

10/00956/LBC **Langton Lodge The Green, Speldhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - First floor extension and internal alterations (LB)

10/01164/REM **The Spinney Penshurst Road, Speldhurst**
- Reserved Matters (All Matters Reserved): 2 storey small two/three bedroom cottage in front part of site (CA)

10/01047/HOUSE **61 St James Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, St James**
- Single storey extension to rear and a flat roof dormer to existing roof on the north side at second floor level (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 17 April 2010

HIGHWAYS - District of Ashford

GOLD HILL, WESTWELL (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Gold Hill, Westwell for its entire length on or after 21 April 2010 for an estimated period of one day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Westwell Lane, Tumbledown Hill.

This order will come into force on Wednesday 21 April 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

LANSDOWN ROAD, CANTERBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because ducting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lansdown Road, Canterbury outside property 11 to 29B on or after 5 May 2010 for an estimated period of 5 days or until the works are complete.

There will be no alternative route for through traffic. Access will be maintained for residents.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Dartford as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Westwood Road, Southfleet**
Extent:	South of Elm Cottage.
Date:	3rd May 2010 for 5 days.
Diversion:	Highcross Road and Betsham Road.
Purpose:	Murphy LTD will be undergoing electrical maintenance work.
Road Name:	**Whitehill Road, Southfleet**
Extent:	300m south of junction of Westwood Road and Whitehill Road.
Date:	7th May 2010 for 15 days.
Diversion:	Main Road, Green Street Green Road, Sandbanks Hill and Highcross Road.
Purpose:	Murphy LTD to install a new electrical supply.
Road Name:	**Highcross Road, Southfleet**
Extent:	150m south of junction of Sandbanks Hill and Southfleet Road.
Date:	28th May 2010 for 10 days.
Diversion:	Whitehill Road, Main Road, Green Street Green Road and Sandbanks Hill.
Purpose:	Murphy LTD to install a new electrical supply.
Road Name:	**Southfleet Road, Bean**
Extent:	50m north of junction of Sandbanks Hill and Highcross Road.
Date:	11th June 2010 for 20 days.
Diversion:	Bean Lane, B255 over A2, A296 Watling Street, take B259 slip road off, Park Corner Road, Foxhounds Lane, B262 Station Road and B262 Betsham Road.
Purpose:	Murphy LTD to install a new electrical supply.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Dover from as described in the schedule to this order on or after 23 April 2010 for an estimated period of one day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as shown below.

Road Name:	**Coxhill, Shepherdswell**
Extent:	Between A2 Dover Road and Westcourt Lane
Dates:	on or after 23 April 2010
Diversion:	Westcourt Lane, Westcourt Road and Dover Road (Canterbury traffic to proceed in to Lydden Hill turn-off to turn round. Or - Eythorne Road, Shepherdswell Road, Shooters Hill, Chapel Hill, Coldred Road, Church Road, Coldred Hill and Dover.
Road Name:	**Barville Road, Eythorne**
Extent:	Between Pike Road and Dover Road
Dates:	On or after 23 April 2010
Diversion:	Wigmore Lane, Shooters Hill, Chapel Hill, The Street, Kennel Hill and A256 Whitfeld By-pass.

This order will come into force on Friday 23 April 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs are erected and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The order will allow the above mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of similar nature at any time for the duration of the order.

WOODNESBOROUGH ROAD, SANDWICH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that to enable Network Rail to carry out track maintenance, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Woodnesborough Road, Sandwich between 1.00 am on 24 April 2010 until 4.00 am on Sunday 25 April 2010.

The road will be closed to through traffic for a distance of 30 metres either side of the level crossing The alternative route will be west bound via Mote Sole, Cattle Market, Harnet Street, Strand Street, High Street, New Street and St Bart's Road; east bound via Woodnesborough Road, St Bart's Road, New Street Cattle Market and Mote Sole.

This Order will come into force from 24 April 2010, will be in operation when the appropriate signs and barriers are on site, and will remain valid for a period of eighteen months. The Order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

B2175 LONDON ROAD, NORTHFLEET (40 MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called 'the Act') and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will reduce the length of 40 mph speed limit on B2175 London Road to the following length of road (extending the 30 mph speed limit):

London Road (B2175): From a point 12 metres west of the junction with Rural Vale to a point 33 metres east of the junction with Pier Road.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the offices of Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend during normal office hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Gravesend as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate surface dressing works.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Whitepost Lane, Culverstone Green**
Extent:	From its junction with Harvel Road to A227 Wrotham Road
Date:	7th May 2010 for 1 week
Diversion:	A227 Wrotham Road / Gravesend Road and Harvel Road
Road Name:	**Luxon Road, Luddesdown**
Extent:	From its junction with Leywood Road and Lockyers Hill
Date:	11th May 2010 for 1 week
Diversion:	Lockyers Hill and Leywood Road
Road Name:	**Leywood Road, Luddesdown**
Extent:	From its junction with White Horse Lane to Luxon Road
Date:	11th May 2010 for 1 week
Diversion:	White Horse Lane, Dean Lane and Strawberry Hill

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

BUSBRIDGE ROAD, LOOSE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Busbridge Road outside Brookfield on or after Monday 3rd May 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Stockett Lane, Forstal Lane and Well Street.

BT apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to renew a telegraph pole. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Tracy Zeal on 08700 500792.

WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Wallis Avenue between Bell Road and Brishing Lane and approximately 50m either side of the junction with Longshaw Road on or after Saturday/Sunday 8th/9th May, Saturday/Sunday 15th/16th May and Saturday/Sunday 22nd/23rd May 2010 for a period of up to 2 days or until such works are completed. The closures will be undertaken separately as notified by advance warning signs.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Bell Road and Brishing Lane.

Walker Construction (UK) Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for improvement works to pedestrian footways and construction of two zebra crossings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Andy Pilcher on 01303 851111.

B2015 MAIDSTONE ROAD, NETTLESTEAD (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Maidstone Road between number 16 and Bishops Close on or after Saturday 8th May 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via B2015 Bow Road, A26 Tonbridge Road, A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2015 Maidstone Road.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to lay a service duct, carriageway resurfacing and Zebra Crossing markings. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Helen Cobby on 08458 247 800.

VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE (SPEED LIMITS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 3) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will extend the 30 mph speed limit from the existing termination point in Boughton Lane (approximately in line with the southern flank wall of 64 Boughton Lane) for a distance of 186 metres in a southerly direction.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford ME20 7BU and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 17 May 2010.

WALLIS AVENUE, MAIDSTONE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984. ZEBRA CROSSING

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

Wallis Avenue, Maidstone:

(1) 40 metres north west of the centre of the roundabout at the junction with Brishing Lane and Wallis Avenue.

(2) 79 metres south east of the junction with Hollingworth Road.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

VARIOUS ROADS, SEVENOAKS (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads, Sevenoaks as noted in attached Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last as noted in Schedule 1. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: as noted in the schedule.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate works as noted in the Schedule.

Schedule 1

Road Name:	**Church Street / Noah's Ark, Seal**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Childsbridge Lane and Honeypot Lane
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 4th and 13th May 2010
Diversion:	Church Street, A25 High Street, School Lane, Childsbridge Lane, West End, St. Ediths Road and Noah's Ark
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway
Road Name:	**Fawke Wood Road, Seal**
Extent:	Between its junctions with St Julians Road and Carters Hill
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 4th and 13th May 2010
Diversion:	St Julians Road and Carters Hill.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway
Road Name:	**Otford Lane, Halstead**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Shoreham Lane and A224 London Road
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 5th and 15th May 2010
Diversion:	Shoreham Lane and A224 London Road
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway
Road Name:	**Rushmore Hill, Knockholt**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Halstead Lane and Norsted Lane
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 6th and 16th May 2010
Diversion:	Halstead Lane, Knockholt Road, Shoreham Lane, A224 London Road, A21 Sevenoaks Road and Rushmore Hill
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway
Road Name:	**Crockenhill Lane, Eynsford**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Wested Lane and Sparepenny Lane
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 7th and 17th May 2010
Diversion:	Wested Lane, B2173 London Road, A20 London Road, Dartford Road, High Street Farningham and Sparepenny Lane
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway.
Road Name:	**Eynsford Road, Crockenhill**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Crockenhill Lane and Crockenhill Cemetery
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 7th and 17th May 2010
Diversion:	Wested Lane, London Road, Goldsel Road, Green Court Road, Main Road, Eynsford Road.
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway
Road Name:	**Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Crockenhill Lane and High Street Farningham
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 7th and 17th May 2010
Diversion:	Crockenhill Lane, Wested Lane, B2173 London Road, A20 London Road, Dartford Road and High Street Farningham
Purpose:	Surface dressing of carriageway
Road Name:	**Noah's Ark / St. Ediths Road, Kemsing**
Extent:	Between its junctions with West End and Honeypot Lane
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 17th and 27th May 2010
Diversion:	Noah's Ark, Church Street, A25 High Street, School Lane, Childsbridge Lane, West End
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Riverside / Sparepenny Lane, Eynsford**
Extent:	Between its junctions with A225 High Street and Crockenhill Lane
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 19th and 29th May 2010
Diversion:	A225 Eynsford High Street / Eynsford Road, High Street Farningham, Sparepenny Lane
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Wested Lane, Crockenhill**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Crockenhill Lane and bridge over railway
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 20th and 30th May 2010
Diversion:	Wested Lane, B2173 London Road, Goldsel Road, Green Court Road, Main Road and Eynsford Road
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Fens Way and Midfield Avenue, Swanley**
Extent:	Entire estate
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 21st and 31st May 2010
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Lower Road, Swanley**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Top Dartford Road and Goss Hill
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 22nd May and 2nd June 2010
Diversion:	Top Dartford Road and Goss Hill
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Sounds Lodge, Crockenhill**
Extent:	Whole length
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 27th May and 6th June 2010
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**The Meadows, Halstead**
Extent:	Whole length
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 27th May and 6th June 2010
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Meadway, Halstead**
Extent:	Whole length
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 28th May and 7th June 2010
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Deanery Road, Westerham**
Extent:	Whole length
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 28th May and 7th June 2010
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Pootings Road, Westerham**
Extent:	Pootings Road / Spout Lane.
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 28th May and 8th June 2010.
Diversion:	B2027 Four Elms Road, B2026 Station Road /Main Road.
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Wellers Town Road, Chiddingstone**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Hoath Corner and Hampkins Hill Road
Date:	Works will take 1 day between 30th May and 10th June 2010
Diversion:	High Street, Chiddingstone, Lockskinners, Wilderness Lane, Lockskinners, Chiddingstone Hoath and Hoath Corner
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Chested Lane, Chiddingstone**
Extent:	Between its junctions with B2027 Penshurst Road and Wellers Town Road
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 1st and 12th June 2010
Diversion:	B2027 Penshurst Road, Mill Street and High Street, Chiddingstone
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing
Road Name:	**Coldharbour Road, Penshurst**
Extent:	Between its junctions with Nunnery Lane and White Post Junction
Date:	Works will take 2 days between 3rd and 14th June 2010
Diversion:	Smarts Hill, B2188 New Road, Grove Road and Finch Green
Purpose:	Carriageway resurfacing

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

SCHOOL LANE, HORTON KIRBY (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on School Lane, Horton Kirby between Three Gates Road and Forge Lane.

The Order will become effective on 3rd May 2010, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the restriction above will be via: Lambard Street, Mussenden Lane and Three Gates Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation a water supply.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

BUTCHER'S LANE, MEREWORTH (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Butcher's Lane between Beech Road and 183 Butcher's Lane on or after Monday 19th April 2010 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Beech Road, Beaufighter Road, A228 Malling Road and The Street.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for drainage improvement works. Should you require any further information the Kent Highway Services contact is Jamie Finch on 08458 247 800.

NORTHWOOD ROAD, TONBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Northwood Road between Trench Road and Waveney Road on or after Tuesday 4th May 2010 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Trench Road and Northwood Road.

Down To Earth Trees Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for roadside tree removal works using a crane. Should you require any further information the contact is Jerry Edwards on 01959 524623.

HIGH STREET, WEST MALLING (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010/11 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is taking place on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on High Street, West Malling between the entrance to the short stay car park and its junction with Swan Street.

The Order will become effective on 25th April 2010, for the dates as shown in schedule 1 between the hours of 6am and 2pm, or, until completion of the event. The closure on 28th November 2010 will remain in place until 8pm. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place. Access will be maintained at all times as much as is possible.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: A228 Ashton Way, A20 London Road and Town Hill.

The purpose of the Order is to support the Farmers Markets taking place.

Schedule 1

Sunday 25th April 2010	Sunday 24th October 2010
Sunday 23rd May 2010	Sunday 28th November 2010
Sunday 27th June 2010	Sunday 19th December 2010
Sunday 25th July 2010	Sunday 23rd January 2011
Sunday 22nd August 2010	Sunday 27th February 2011
Sunday 26th September 2010	Sunday 27th March 2011

LAKE ROAD AYLESFORD (PROHIBITION OF WAITING) ORDER 2010 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers has made an Order under Sections 1 and 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the effect of which has extended the existing double yellow lines outside of the new development site on Lake Road, Aylesford.

A copy of the Order which will come into operation on Monday 26th April 2010, an explanatory statement and a plan showing the extents of the scheme can be inspected during normal office hours at the Kent County Council Offices Sessions House, County Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XQ the Aylesford Parish Council Offices, 23 Forstal Road, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7AU and at the Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council Offices, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ.

Anyone may, by application to the High Court within 6 weeks of the date of publication of this Notice, challenge the validity of the Orders or of any provision contained in them on the grounds that it is not within the powers conferred by the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, or of any instrument made there under, or that there has been a failure to comply with any statutory requirement in relation to the Order.

THE STREET, PLAXTOL (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on The Street between The Papermakers Arms to The Rectory on or after Sunday 9th May 2010 when required for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via School Lane, Hamptons Road, Dunk's Green Road, Long Mill Lane.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to provide two new connections. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Ed Spalding on 01342 413633.

SPELMONDEN ROAD, HORSMONDEN (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2010 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Spelmonden Road between the junction of Brick Kiln Lane to outside 3 Spelmonden Road on or after Tuesday 4th May 2010 when required for a period of up to 8 days or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for the restriction described above is via Ruck Lane, B2162 Lamberhurst Road, A262 Goudhurst Road.

EDF Energy Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to replace overhead lines, poles and to provide a new connection. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Howard Farmer on 01342 413632.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/10/00520/FL – Unit 2 3 Sheldon Way Larkfield Aylesford Kent ME20 6SF – Mrs Patricia Baquero is applying for change of use to a childrens learning indoor play area, two astro turf football pitches, cafe and associated facilities. Reason: GPI

TM/10/00648/FL – Little Berries Taylors Lane Trottiscliffe West Malling Kent ME19 5ES – Mr And Mrs Pratt are applying for two storey side extension, single storey front extension and associated alterations. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00678/FL & TM/10/00679/LB – The Farm House New House Farm Kemsing Road Wrotham Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7BU – Mr R Spencer is applying for demolition of existing garage, greenhouse and garden wall and erect new triple garage, lobby extension, orangery and garden wall; alterations to the exterior of the dwelling; change of use of agricultural land to residential curtilage. Reason: LB HH

TM/10/00701/FL – Hop Pickers Yard Winfield Lane Borough Green Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8PX – Mr Gary Starling is applying for extension to ground and first floor. New covered way to outbuildings. Conversion of part of garage to amenity room. New replacement garage. Reason: CA HH

TM/10/00752/FL – Roughway Farm Roughway Lane Tonbridge Kent TN11 9SH – J I B Cannon And Son are applying for Agricultural Building to provide ambient receiving and packing area with temperature controlled stores for fruit. Packing and processing area for cobnuts, raspberries and plums, dispatch and administration office and staff facilities. Reason: CA

TM/10/00789/FL – The London Golf Club South Ash Manor South Ash Road Ash Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7EN – London Golf Club are applying for temporary erection of a marquee from 01 March to 31 December during 2010 and 2011. Reason: LB

TM/10/00675/LB – East Wing Ford Place Ford Lane Wrotham Heath Sevenoaks Kent TN15 7SE – Mrs Shirley Cooper are applying for Listed Building Application: New porch, canopy and guttering. Reason: LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
GPI Application is of general Public Interest
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 9 May 2010.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
18 April 2010

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Latest Meriva 'ghosts' in with a Rolls-Royce touch

By **STEVE LOADER**

IT'S hard to see any swank appeal in Vauxhall's original 2003-vintage Meriva baby MPV.

It was a game little load lugger with clever features, but largely anonymous to look at and drive.

The second generation Meriva – available to order now from £15,495 and with dealers for June 18 – is the opposite.

It is not only wider and longer, but looks a whole lot more stylish with a distinctive stepped rear window line.

And the pièce de résistance is something in common with the latest generation Rolls-Royce Phantom and Ghost models: rearward opening rear doors for easier access.

Once known as 'suicide doors' this format was banned in the 1960s, though one suspects fashion had something to do with it too.

But the concept is back now, with modern safety features to prevent kids opening the so-called FlexDoors while the car is moving. The doors have conventional child locks anyway, but they also lock automatically at speeds above 2mph and a green light in the door handle goes out, indicating that the door cannot be opened.

If a door has not closed properly when the car starts to move, an alarm and dashboard warning go off, but if the car is in an accident, the FlexDoors unlock automatically.

Why go to the trouble? The FlexDoors swing open to an angle of nearly 90 degrees, vastly improving entry and exit anyway, but it is parents with small children who will see most benefit as they pilot the kids in and out and strap them into their various seats, boosters and so on.

Vauxhall also claims that with both front and rear door open on one side – the fronts open at a similar angle to the FlexDoors – it is easier to corral and manage the children in and out of the car too.

Vauxhall has also gone 'FlexCrazy' lately, re-thinking how interiors and storage work; the latest Astra impressed on a recent road test and we can expect the Meriva to exceed that by a long way thanks to the 'monocab' MPV design and those doors.

Vauxhall is quick to highlight easier fold-down rear seats, which can also be moved to create more boot, leg or shoulder room.

As expected, the engine line-up includes some new generation small capacity turbocharged petrol engines – the efficient fuel consumption and extra power of these boosted units rather rendering the normally-aspirated 1.4 unit surplus to requirements, though there are always buyers for cheap entry options.

However, even the racier, cleaner and meaner petrol engines may have a job ouselling the diesels, including a 1.3-litre capable of averaging nearly 60mpg and a ecoFLEX variant of this due later in 2010.

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05/55 PEUGEOT 206 1.4 VERVE, 3door hatchback, finished in black with contrasting interior, Alloy wheels, sports seats, air conditioning, cd radio, front fog lights, airbags and abs, a genuine low mileage car and in lovley condition, be quick at..... **£5495**

02 52 Peugeot 206 CC, Finished in Aegean metallic blue with contrasting black leather interior. Alloy wheels. air conditioning, abs, e/w, electric folding roof and very rare SP kit fitted. Beautiful condition throughout..... **£5.495**

06/06 CITROEN C3 1.4 PLURIAL, Finished metallic blue with silver detailing, very versitile roof, choose a targa top or a full convertible in minutes !! air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking,alloys wheels, good value at **£5995**

06 06 Nissan Note 1.4SE,Tremendous value for money, one owner vehicle with 15" alloys, air conditioning, CD/ Radio, Electric windows front & rear, remote central locking and front foglights..... **£5.995**

08/58 PEUGEOT 107 URBAN 1.0 3 door, Finished in red with contrasting interior, electric windows and remote central locking 4 airbags, folding rear seat, fantastic fuel economy and only £35 per year road tax, value at only **£5995**

06 06 Nissan Note 1.6SE automatic, CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, on board computer, 15" Alloys, Air Conditioning, Front & Rear Electric Windows, Sliding Rear Seats with Flexi-board storage system..... **£6.495**

07 07 Micra C+C 1.6 Active Luxury Auto, One owner Coupe Cabriolet with electric roof, P/leather upholstery, alloys, front foglights, climate control, CD radio, intelligent key, full main dealer history .....**£6.995**.

06 06 Honda Jazz 1.3SE 5 door, finished A one owner car, equipment includes Alloys, Air Conditioning, CD/Radio with steering wheel controls, Electrically adjustable & heated wing mirrors, Electric windows front & rear, Remote central locking..... **£6.995**

09 59 Nissan Pixo 1.0 n-tec, Our demo, very low mileage, economical to run and £35 a year to tax, PAS, air con with pollen filter, CD/ Radio, electric front windows, remote central locking, front & side airbags, ABS with EBD... **£7.495**

05 05 Vauxhall Tigra Sport Twinport 1.4, Lovely looking, fun car, perfect all year round, 36,000 miles.....**£7.495**

08 08 Ford Fiesta Freedom 1.4, Stunning example of this popular hatchback, one former keeper, FSH, Heated windscreen, Front Fogs, Aux Input, 20,900 miles.....**£7.750**

04/04 Peugeot 307 2.0 CC, Metallic blue with black leather upholstery. Electric folding roof, a/c, alloy's , tinted glass, remote central locking, front fog lights power fold mirrors, auto headlamp's and wipers. Peugeot service history, low mileage for year.....**£7.595**

08/08 FORD FIESTA 1.4 AUTOMATIC STYLE, 3 door hatchback finished in metallic red with grey interior. rare automatic, air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a one owner car with low mileage, only ...**£7995**

07/07 CITROEN PICASSO HDI MPV, finished in silver wirth contrasting dark grey interior, great spec including air conditioning, electric windows, remote central locking, a nice example of this popular family car and value at **£7995**

08 08 Citroen Berlingo M-SP VTR 1.6 16v, Spacious people carrier for work and familly. One owner from new, with full service history, 7353 miles.....**£8.495**

07/07 SEAT LEON 1.6 HATCHBACK, 5 door, finished in silver with contrasting interior, air conditioning, remote central locking, cd radio with mp3, airbags, abs, low mileage for year and good value at **£8995**

06 06 Mazda 5 2.0 Sport, Room for all the family in this well equipped 6 seater with CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Sliding rear doors, Climate control an 17" alloys **£9.495**

06 06 Honda Civic 1.8ES I-VTEC, A host of features, including CD/Radio with steering wheel audio controls, Dual zone climate control, Electric windows front & rear, electric wing mirrors, cruise control and Reverse park sensors. .....**£9.495.**

09 09 Micra 1.2 '25' 5 door, Our ex. Demo. An economical to run car with CD/Radio and ipod connection, steering wheel audio controls, Electric front windows, Electric wing mirrors, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels..... **£9.995**

07/57 Mini One 1.6, Finished in deep metallic red with a contrasting interior. Air con, electric windows, remote central locking, alloy wheels, abs, cd player, front fog lights, service history, cheap running costs. One owner from new..... **£10.495**

05 05 Volkswagen Golf 2.0GTi Automatic 5 door, A fabulous drive with many features including 17" alloys, climate control, front foglights, electric windows all round, electric/heated wing mirrors, radio/ CD with 10 speakers **£11.995**

07 07 Citroen C4 Picasso 2.0 VTR+ automatic, Just arrived! A spacious 7 seater with remote central locking, Electric mirrors, Front foglights, Air conditioning, Trip computer, Steering wheel audio controls, 16" alloys, Trip computer, ESP **£11.995**

04 04 Nissan 350Z, A dream drive with a powerful 276 bhp 3.5 litre engine, Full main dealer history, 6CD/radio, 18" alloys, Electric windows, Electric wing mirrors, Climate control, ESP **£11.995**

05 56 Audi A4 Estate 2.0SE Tdi, Demo plus one owner. Full main dealer history and a host of features including Front fog lights, Climate Control, CD/Radio, Electric wing mirrors, Alloys, ESP..... **£11.995**

09/59 PEUGEOT 308 1.6 HDI S, 5dr hatchback, silver with contrasting interior, A/C and electric windows, remote central locking, cd radio, 6 air bags, abs and esp, split rear seats, amazing fuel economy from this great diesel engine, save over £4000 from new, only **£12495**

09 09 Peugeot 308cc 1.6 THP 150 CC, Black with contrasting interior, Electric folding roof, A/C, alloy's, computer, E/W, abs, remote central locking, only 7800 miles, over £21500 new..... .....**£16.995**

10/59 PEUGEOT 407 2.0 HDI SPORT SALOON, silver with black half leather interior, full colour integrated sat nav, bluetooth, climate control, electric seats, electric windows and power folding mirrors, 6 airbags, abs and esp, cost new over £23000 amazing value at **£17495**

08/08 Honda CRV 2.2 DCi, gleaming black with contrasting interior. One owner from new and full service history. Many features including air con, electric windows, ABS, fact ory alloy wheels, detachable tow bar, front fogs plus lots more !, beautiful condition.....**£17.495**

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2007 57 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V RIP CURL ALLOYS AIRCON C/D PLAYER 19920 MILES MET MERCURY GREY	£7,295 M
2008 08 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 EXPRESSION 3DR 15" ALLOYS CD AIR CON ELEC PACK 8934 MILES MERCURY	£7,495 A
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2008 58 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYNAMIQUE 5DR 16" ALLOYS S/R CD A/C AUTO LIGHTS & WIPERS 11253 MILES	£8,945 A
2008 58 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYNAMIQUE S 3DR 16" ALLOYS CD A/C 1/2 LEATHER 4612 MILES BLACK	£8,995 A
2008 58 NEW CLIO 1.2 TCE 100 DYN 3DR AIRCON ELEC WIN PAS C/LOCKING CD IN EXTREME BLUE 14750 MILES	£8,995 C
2008 58 CLIO 5DR 1.5 DCI 86 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS A/C C/LOCKING C/D PLAYER 39000 MILES MET PEARL BLACK	£8,995 M
2009 09 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V 75 EXTREME C/LOCKING SINGLE CD/RADIO 11477 MILES GLACIER WHITE	£8,995 M
2008 08 CLIO 3DR 1.2 TCE DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON C/D PLAYER 32400 MILES METALLIC PEARL BLACK	£8,995 M
2006 56 RENAULTSPORT CLIO 197 17" ALLOYS CD CLIMATE CRUISE CONTROL 33700 MILES ULTRA RED	£9,695 A
2009 09 NEW CLIO 1.5 DCI 86 DYNAMIQUE S 3DR 16" ALLOYS CD 1/2 LEATHER 14920 MILES MERCURY	£9,995 A
2007 07 RENAULTSPORT CLIO 197 17" ALLOYS CD AIR CON HANDS FREE CARD 22250 MILES ULTRA RED	£10,495 A
2010 10 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM ALLOYS AIRCON SAT NAV C/LOCKING 10 MILES MET STONE	£10,695 M
2010 10 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM ALLOYS AIRCON SAT NAV C/LOCKING 10 MILES MET GREY	£10,695 M
2010 10 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM ALLOYS AIRCON SAT NAV C/LOCKING 10 MILES MET GREY	£10,695 M
2010 10 CLIO 3DR 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE TOM TOM ALLOYS AIRCON SAT NAV C/LOCKING 10 MILES MET GREY	£10,695 M
2007 07 CLIO 3DR 197 2.0LTR ALLOYS AIRCON KEYLESS ENTRY SPOILER 9071 MILES ULTRA RED	£10,795 M
2010 10 CLIO 3DR 1.5 DCI 86 BHP I-MUSIC ALLOYS AIRCON C/D PLAYER C.LOCKING 10 MILES MET BLACK	£10,975 M
2009 59 NEW CLIO 1.2 16V WSR TOM TOM 3DR SAT NAV BODY KIT 16" ALLOYS CD A/C 50 MILES BLUE	£10,995 A
2009 9 NEW CLIO 1.5 DCI 86 S/TOURER DYN 15" ALLOYS CD AIR CON ELEC PACK 6215 MILES MERCURY	£10,995 A
2009 09 NEW CLIO 1.5 DCI 86 DYNAMIQUE 5DR 16" ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 4253 MILES PEARL BLACK	£11,295 A
2009 59 NEW CLIO 1.5 DCI 86 DYNAMIQUE 3DR 16" ALLOYS CD AIR CON ELEC PACK 4500 MILES BLUE	£11,795 A

TWINGO

2008 08 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 16V DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS AIRCON PAN ROOF 17900 MILES MET TEMPEST	£6,995 M
2007 57 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 TCE GT AIRCON ALLOYS C/LOCKING 19275 MILES MET MERCURY GREY	£6,995 M
2007 57 TWINGO 3DR 1.2 TCE GT AIR CON ALLOYS C/LOCKING 15320 MILES IN SILVER	£7,295 C
2008 08 TWINGO 1.2 TCE 100 GT 3DR 15" ALLOYS CLIMATE S/ROOF CD ELEC PACK 7315 MILES PEARL BLACK	£8,295 A
2009 09 TWINGO RENAULTSPORT 133 17" ALLOYS CUP PACK A/C CD BLUE TOOTH 3300 MILES PEARL BLACK	£11,995 A

MODUS

2006 06 MODUS 1.6 16V AUTO DYNAMIQUE 15" ALLOYS CD A/C ELEC PACK 17910 MILES MERCURY	£6,695 A
2007 07 MODUS 1.4 DYNAMIQUE 15" ALLOY WHEELS AIR CON CD PLAYER 18800 MILES IN MET RED	£6,995 C
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2007 07 MEGANE 1.6 VVT EXTREME 5DR 16" ALLOYS CD AIR CON ELEC WINDOWS 38210 MILES ECLIPSE GREY	£6,795 A
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2007 57 SCENIC 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE AIR CON ALLOYS ELEC PACK 19597 MILES IN BLACK	£8,495 C
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2008 58 G-SCENIC 7ST 1.6VVT DYNAMIQUE'S ALLOYS CLIMATE CRUISE 1/2 LEATHER 25280 MILES MET BLUE	£10,995 M
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2008 08 ESPACE 2.0DCI 150 DYNAMIQUE 7 SEATER CLIMATE ELEC PACK 18144 MILES IN MERCURY SILVER	£14,495 C

CABRIOLET

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2006 05 MEGANE CC 1.6 VVT DYNAMIQUE AIR CON ALLOYS CD ELEC PACK 31491MILES MET BLACK	£8,995 C
2006 06 MEGANE CC 1.6 VVT PRIVILEGE CLIMATE ALLOYS BEIGE LEATHER OTTAMAN BLUE 29000 MILES	£8,995 C
2006 56 MEGANE CC 1.5 DCI 106 DYNAMIQUE ALLOYS C/D AIR CON ELEK PACK 21420 MILES PEARL BLACK	£9,395 A
2006 06 MEGANE CC DCI 106 DYNAMIQUE 5DR AIR CON ALLOYS CD ELEC PACK 23000 MILES MET QUARTZ	£9,795 M
2007 57 MEGANE CC 1.5 DCI 106 DYNAMIQUE 17" ALLOYS CRUISE CLIMATE 20152 MILES MET QUARTZ	£11,495 A

KOLEOS

2009 09 KOLEOS 4X4 2.0DCI 175 PRIVILEGE ALLOYS CLIMATE FULL GREY LEATHER 10453 MILES MET GREY	£16,995 M

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

Diesel flagship is given 'six appeal'

PEUGEOT has given its popular 207 hatchback and load-lugging SW version 'six appeal' with a new six-speed manual gearbox and a new Euro 5-emisions compliant 112bhp HDi flagship diesel engine (from £16,245).

The 207 Sport HDi 110 hatchback and SW Sport and Outdoor HDi 110 now make way for versions with this new powertrain, offering better performance, quieter operation and much lower CO2 emissions.

The new engine represents a better than 50 per cent redesign of its predecessor and indicates that while small petrol engines have clawed back lost ground against their diesel rivals over the last couple of years, the race is still on.

The changes will be of particular benefit to the bulkier SW version, which acts both as an estate and mini-MPV in the 207 line-up and is more likely to be heaviliy laden.

Chevy stokes up warranty wars

CHEVROLET is the latest carmaker to mobilise for a long-expected warranty war.

Korean sister brands Kia and Hyundai have already raised tensions with seven and five-year guarantees respectively and Fiat has dabbled with five-year packages on some models to challenge the industry norm of three years.

And now Chevrolet, which imports all of its UK models from Korea, is also offering five years on its Aveo (from £8,545) supermini and its Ford Focus class Cruze (from £12,795) saloon.

To add to the temptation, the deal also includes three years' or 30,000-miles' free servicing, though

Chevy is still calling the whole package a limited offer until June 30, rather than taking on Kia and Hyundai properly.

But it might just be enough to flush out a few more warranty offers – it's what people want in these straitened times.

Company car miser

CITROËN – sister company to Peugeot – has also tweaked the 1.6-litre diesel offering on its Audi-esque C5 family/company car range.

Though the 110bhp unit is retained, it now has greater fuel efficiency, lower CO2 emissions and, under the new UK road tax banding from April 1, is also free from tax in its first year before settling to £90 annually thereafter.

Fuel economy on the combined cycle has been improved by six per cent to 56.5mpg – impressive for this relatively big car priced from £18,995.

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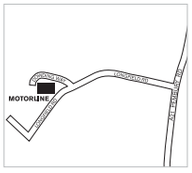

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Classy Passat CC up one place in the coupé charts

by STEVELOADER

RATHER reluctantly, I suspect, VW has had a re-think about its luxurious and eye-catching Passat flagship.

There is no doubt the Passat CC is class at a bargain price from £22,520 – Mercedes-Benz would have you pay more than twice that for starters to get its own CLS four-door/four-seat coupé.

But perhaps the less well-heeled buyers of a CC expect their piece of motoring indulgence to work a bit harder for a living, hence VW's decision to revise the seating plan to take five adults – at a pinch.

While they were at it, they might have come up with a slight change of name too, as I'm sure many people are confused by the CC suffix. While other carmakers use it to denote coupé convertible, the nearest the Vee-Dub comes to that is a panoramic roof option, though frameless door windows suggest a full convertible was/is on the cards.

Other tweaks to the new-look CC include sat nav and a touchscreen Bluetooth device as standard, plus already generous specifications. VW claims the revisions add up to an extra £1,000 of equipment even on the entry model, yet the CC entry price has edged up £515 over the model it replaces.

Perhaps the new seating plan will now deliver the higher sales level this classy looking car deserves.

Forget any assumption this is simply a Passat saloon wearing a new hat – the racy CC is longer, wider and some 5cms lower than its prim sister.

And now it can carry the same number of people, though rear headroom is compromised slightly by that lower roofline.

There is more boot space too – 47 litres extra to impress the golfing set.

KITT car tops poll of nation's telly favourites

TWO of the nation's star cars are back on TV, prompting a national poll of the motoring favourites viewers would most like to own.

One of the returning veterans is KITT, the talking Pontiac Trans Am from Knight Rider, now starring in a new ad series by Kwik-Fit, which commissioned the motoring poll.

KITT also happens to have topped the poll with 18.4 per cent of the vote, some distance ahead of the 4.4 per cent and sixth place gained by the other returnee, the 1980s Audi Quattro (pictured above) used by Gene Hunt in BBC's Ashes to Ashes – now back for a third series.

Other favourites and their positions were: 2) Inspector Morse's Jaguar Mk II, 3) the Ferrari Testarossa from Miami Vice, 4) Magnum PI's Ferrari 308, 5) The Batmobile, 7) Lady Penelope's (Thunderbirds) pink Rolls-Royce, 8) the General Lee (Dodge Charger) from The Dukes of Hazzard, 9) The Saint's Volvo P1800 and 10) The A Team's GMC van.

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06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES £6995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C TANGO 21000 MILES £6995
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07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5DR AUTO PAS SILVER 3000 MILES £7995
07 56 NEW CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES £7995
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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the RCZ are: Combined 36.7 (7.7) - 52.3 (5.4)

Awesome everyday abilities of Nissan's 'Optimus Prime'

NISSAN'S GT-R not only looks like a Transformer robot, but metamorphoses seamlessly from supercar to everyday motor.

How many top performance machines can do that?

Of course, the GT-R does not have an everyday fuel habit – you'll be lucky to get anywhere near the combined consumption figure of 22.8mpg – but, in supercar terms it costs everyday money.

Prices start at £59,400, peanuts for the technology built into a car which has real heritage in the eyes of aficionados even if most UK consumers know little about its predecessors, variously labelled Skyline and GT-R (Gran Turismo Racing).

The sporty Skyline heritage can be traced back to 1964, but it was not until the 1989 GT-R arrived that the car was truly on the world motoring map and an Australian magazine coined the name Godzilla to describe its monstrous performance and ability – even then it featured four-wheel drive and steering.

The name stuck, and a reputation as Japan's one and only genuine supercar.

It still has monstrous vital statistics: full-time all-wheel drive, smooth twin-turbo 485 PS (478bhp) 3.8-litre V6 engine, 0-62mph in 3.5 seconds and a maximum of 193mph, twin-clutch automatic gearbox, three handling/ride settings and an ultra-low drag body (0.27 drag coefficient) with F1 car-style down force with input from Lotus no less.

DrivingReview

by **STEVE LOADER**

CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Nissan GT-R

Unfortunately, there is another: 298 g/km of CO_2 emissions puts Godzilla in the top bracket for road tax – a whopping £950 in the first year under the new system and £435/year thereafter.

On the other hand, if you've the wherewithal to afford one, don't need to fill up at Tesco for the extra points and couldn't give a stuff what people think of your stand on global warming, then you're not going to worry about the road tax.

You will hardly care either that your GT-R probably won't hold its value as well as a

Porsche 911 even if it costs a lot less when you consider all the extra kit that comes as standard.

And it is the ultimate statement for someone who loves technology plus a dollop of bespoke tailoring – the drivetrain is hand-built – and you don't pay a hefty price in convenience for it.

It is a 2+2, but I've seen far worse rear 'seats' and the boot is huge, while the cabin is far classier than I expected, with good quality leather seats and dashboard – I liked the way a section of that moves up and down with any steering wheel adjustment.

Above all though, Nissan's supercar is an eye-catching, entertaining and surprisingly refined car to drive.

Sometimes it is hard to just squeeze the throttle without the prodigious power making the car leap from the start, but it's just silky smooth on the power and gear-changing front after that, whether using full auto or changing gear using the steering wheel paddles.

The all-wheel drive set-up favours the rear in the best sports car traditions, but up to 50 per cent of the power can switch automatically to the front to improve traction and stability in tricky conditions – this is a sporting car that could have lived with the recent snow.

There are three damper settings to suit handling and ride requirements: R is for high performance, but you would need a track day to explore it; Sports is probably the default setting and had me constantly marvelling at the car's handling in relation to comfort; and then there is Comfort, which does what its suggests, but seemed superfluous when the mid-choice is so good.

Nissan won't import many GT-Rs, but each one speaks volumes for the marque's technical ability, ambition and confidence.

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DrivingPortfolio

NISSAN GT-R BLACK EDITION £60,700

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★
Reliability	★★★★★
How green?	★
Road tax	£435/year (£950 year one)
Best rival	Porsche 911

TheVerdict

DON'T LIKE: the hair-trigger throttle, which makes it hard to pull away when on best behaviour

NOT SURE: the word Nissan ahead of GT-R can yet overcome UK buyers' badge snobbery

REALLY LIKE: the marriage of technical excellence, everyday usability and promise of dependability

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*Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty and £55.00 Government First Registration Fee. Customer swappage allowance relates to savings against published list price of vehicles. Offers apply to vehicles registered from 11th March 2010 until such point as they may be withdrawn by Peugeot Motor Company PLC at its discretion. Offers subject to availability and on selected models only. +Your car must have been registered before 28th February 2003, be registered with the DVLA, have a current MOT test certificate and have been registered to you for 90 continuous days. For further information please visit www.peugeot.co.uk/swappage. (PEUG33961)

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ALFA ROMEO

A3, FSI SE, 2004, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, black, 63198 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A3, TDI SE, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, silver, 84350 miles, £9400, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A4, S4 Quattro Tip Auto, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags, black, 27000 miles, £22000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

A6, 4.2 quattro se tip, 2005, grey metallic with light grey leather, 38000 miles, £12950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

A6, TDI TDV S Line, 2006, quartz, 57000 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TT, V6 COUPE, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels auto transmission drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immob metallic paint leather interior power steering reverse parking aid traction control trip computer remote central locking, silver with grey leather, 17000 miles, £19390, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

TT, V6 COUPE, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels auto transmission drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immob metallic paint leather interior power steering reverse parking aid traction control remote central locking, silver with grey leather, 17000 miles, £19390, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C5, 1.6, 2008, red, 50 miles, £23000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, green, 50 miles, £23000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

C5, 1.6, 2008, grey, 50 miles, £22000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRAND C4 PICASSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, grey, 73113 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRAND C4 PICASSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering trip computer remote central locking, brown, 24500 miles, £9300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICASSO, Desire, 2005, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player split folding rear seats remote central locking, red, 39000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PICASSO, HDI DESIRE, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering remote central locking, silver, 109000 miles, £3000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

XSARA PICASSO, gv05zrj, pas, abs, air conditioning, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, radio/cd, trip computer, side airbags, electricdoor mirrors, steering wheel rake adjustment, drivers airbag, folding rear seats, lumbar support, service indicator, cloth seat trim, immobiliser, front armrest, front head restraints, isofix child seat anchor points, body coloured bumpers, 3x3 point rear seat belts, full size spare wheel, height adjustable drivers seat, rear wiper, steel wheels, audio remote control, silver, 28157 miles, £5495, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

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CHARADE, El 3dr, wu54hoj, power steering, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, immobiliser, stereo, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, abs, blue, 51000 miles, £3299, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

SIRION, SE 5dr, gj57fjf, remote central locking, power steering, air conditioning, electric windows, air bag, cloth upholstery, head restraints, cd player, colour coded body, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, 15'' alloys, aluminium silver, 12000 miles, £5799, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

TERIOS, Sport 5dr Auto, 7821079, power steering, air conditioning, abs, twin air bags, cd player, radio, electric front windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, alloy wheels, 4x4, silver, 43000 miles, £5995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

FERRARI

575M MARANELLO, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control, black, 14500 miles, £54900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FORD

FIESTA, 1.6 Ghia, 2007, ocean blue, 12400 miles, £7995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Zetec Climate 1.6 TDCi, 2008, panther black, 20000 miles, £8495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Climate, 2006, amethyst, 30400 miles, £6495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec Blue, 2008, amethyst, 16934 miles, £7495, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 'New Shape' 1.25 Zetec, 2009, ocean, 6000 miles, £10995, Tenterden, 01580 765011 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 TDCi Van, 2006, alarm fitted cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser power steering twin airbags remote central locking, white, 28722 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0, 2008, silver, 10 miles, £22500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 2.0, 2008, alarm fitted central locking, silver, 55 miles, £26000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Zetec (Climate Pack), 2007, blue, 26302 miles, £7995, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, Style, 2007, abs brakes cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player split folding rear seats trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking isofix child seat points, black, 45000 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FOCUS, TDCi 115PS Zetec Climate, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels diesel drivers airbag immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd player split folding rear seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, silver, 45000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FUSION, 1.4, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £14000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FUSION, Style (Climate), 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 30149 miles, £6000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

GALAXY, ZETEC, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass curtain airbags remote central locking, stardust silver, 3517 miles, £18080, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, i, 2003, central locking drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering twin airbags, metallic silver, 69500 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, (70), 2006, abs brakes central locking drivers airbag immobiliser power steering, red, 27977 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KA, Zetec, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning cd player climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tinted glass trip computer, blue, 11123 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0 Titanium TDCi AWD, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control trip computer remote central locking quickclear windscreen remote audio controls, chill silver, 2009 miles, £21000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0, 2008, black, 50 miles, £25000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

KUGA, 2.0, 2008, blue, 50 miles, £25000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 5, w319tce, 2 owners immobiliser alloy wheels drivers airbag power steering air conditioning central locking front electric windows, moondust silver, 54000 miles, £1683, Crayford, 01322 281525 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted central locking electric windows front fog lights half leather trim heated seats multi cd player, silver, 10 miles, £26500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0, 2008, silver, 17 miles, £26490, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0, 2008, silver, 19 miles, £26480, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights metallic paint, silver, 50 miles, £26500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

S-MAX, TDCi Zetec, 2008, black, 45789 miles, £12498, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

S-MAX, zetec tdci, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 49183 miles, £12000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

STREETKA, Luxury, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 37058 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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Official Government Environmental Data. Fuel Consumption Figures MPG (Litres/100 km). Chevrolet Spark range emissions: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1), CO_2 Emissions 119 g/km.

JAGUAR

S-TYPE, 3.0v6 se auto, 2002, platinum silver met with charcoal leather, 73000 miles, £5950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, S, lg55lfz, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, half leather, centre armrest, height adjustable seat, rear armrest, adjustable steering column, power steering, stability control, trip computer, abs, child locks, multiple airbags, colour coded body, front fog lamps, electric mirrors, electric windows, climate control, cd player, steering wheel audio controls, alloy wheels, attractive example of the s specification diesel x-type jaguar in probably the best colour combination.one owner from new, full service history, mot until january 2011, and sold with 6 months comprehensive warranty.geat value for this age and mileage. black, 59000 miles, £6990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

X-TYPE, V6, 7733079, air conditioning, climate control, power steering, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, parking sensor, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, twin air bags, curtain airbags, cd player, radio, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, rear headrests, height adjustable seat, adjustable steering column, trip computer, alloy wheels, 4x4, red, 44800 miles, £7695, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

JEEP

CHEROKEE, Sport Crd Auto, 7816079, air conditioning, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, cd player, radio, remote central locking, remote alarm, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, abs, trip computer, powered folding mirrors, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, cloth upholstery, centre armrest, alloy wheels, 4x4, black, 29200 miles, £8995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

CHEROKEE, 2.4 SPORT, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, timberline green, 31100 miles, £5500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CHEROKEE, 2.4 SPORT, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning cd player electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, timberline green, 31100 miles, £5500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LAMBORGHINI

DIABLO, 1998, purple metallic with cream leather, 57000 miles, £59950, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DEFENDER, 90 TD5 County Pick Up, cv56yax, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, power steering, metallic paintwork, tow pack, side steps, electric windows, 4x4, road tax (lgv) is £200 per year. price is £12, 995 + £2, 274.13 vat = £15, 269.13 total, metallic blue, 40000 miles, £12995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 90 TD5 County Pick Up, cv53khm, remote alarm, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, tow pack, side steps, power steering, electric windows, radio cassette, 4x4, road tax (lgv) is £200 per year. price is £9, 495 + £1, 661.63 vat = £11, 156.63 total. blue, 78000 miles, £9495, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

DEFENDER, 90 TDi Hard Top ROW, fb53kdv, power steering, tow pack, radio cassette, rear wash/wipe, 4x4, row spec 300 tdi hard top. road tax (plg) is £205 per year. price is £10, 995 + £1, 924.13 vat = £12, 919.13 total, white, 79000 miles, £10995, Staplehurst, 01580 890333 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2004, black, 62347 miles, £5895, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2004, black, 62347 miles, £5895, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels front fog lights multi cd player traction control remote audio controls, bonatti grey, 71000 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2004, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels front fog lights multi cd player traction control remote audio controls, bonatti grey, 71000 miles, £7000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER SPORT, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation traction control trip computer, black, 49000 miles, £33900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER SPORT, 2007, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission bluetooth car kit central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player power fold mirrors leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation traction control trip computer, black, 49000 miles, £33900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LOTUS

ELISE, S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player, black, 11000 miles, £26000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ELISE, S, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player, silver, 11000 miles, £25500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ELISE, 1.8 S, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior power steering sports seats tinted glass tonneau cover remote central locking, grey, 18247 miles, £17000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ELISE, 1.8 111S, 2004, starlight black, 17250 miles, £16500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

ELISE, SC TOURING, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint leather interior sound pack sports seats sun roof tinted glass, blue, 6000 miles, £27000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

EVORA, LAUNCH EDITION 3.5 V6 22 SPOR, 2009, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering single cd player sports seats traction control remote central locking, grey over 4000 cars in group stock, 500 miles, £56000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 PERFORMANCE and TOURING PACK, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior split folding rear seats sports seats remote central locking, aspen white, 13000 miles, £30000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

EXIGE, 1.8 S SPORTPACK, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint leather interior power steering single cd player sports seats tinted glass traction control remote central locking, silver, 14800 miles, £25000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MAZDA

2, 1.3 TS2, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint tinted glass trip computer twin airbags dual passenger seat, metropolitan grey, 4500 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

2, SPORT 1.5, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights metallic paint mp3 player multiple airbags power steering single cd player sports seats tinted glass twin airbags remote central locking auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls, spirited green, 3000 miles, £11000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, red, 50 miles, £11800, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

2, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £13100, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

1.6, 2008, red, 44 miles, £20800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3, 1.6, 2008, blue, 52 miles, £20900, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3, 1.6, 2008, red, 55 miles, £20800, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

3, SPORT, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels climate control electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multi cd player multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer xenon headlamps curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, blue, 22282 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

5, 2.0, 2008, black, 44 miles, £17800, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5, 1.8, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag immobiliser, red, 44 miles, £21000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

5, 2.0, 2008, black, 55 miles, £20900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

6, TS, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 44265 miles, £6500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

6, TS2, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, red, 59823 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

MX-5, 1.8 OPTION PACK, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering sports seats tinted glass trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, highland green, 17753 miles, £10300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, ICON 2.0, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering tinted glass traction control remote central locking remote audio controls, red, 16000 miles, £10900, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MX-5, Sport, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking electric windows metallic paint leather interior sports seats remote central locking isofix child seat points, galaxy grey, 7455 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RX-8, (231), 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, red, 56000 miles, £6500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RX-8, 192 LEATHER, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control electric windows full service history heated seats metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control curtain airbags remote central locking remote audio controls, winning blue, 9700 miles, £10500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

RX-8, ENVOLVE, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser power steering sports seats trip computer remote central locking, blue, 43000 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MINI

COOPER, 1.6, 2003, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer auto headlights and wipers, electric blue, 46739 miles, £7000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6, 2003, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immob leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation tinted glass traction control xenon headlamps remote central locking remote audio controls, liquid yellow, 30300 miles, £8000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

COOPER, 1.6, 2004, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering single cd player tonneau cover remote central locking, black, 45412 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

COOPER, S, 2005, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, white, 62000 miles, £8300, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.4, 2008, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking, blue, 26500 miles, £10000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

ONE, 1.6, 2002, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering single cd player tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, yellow, 38362 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PEUGEOT

206, verve, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, silver, 40000 miles, £4000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

206, se, 2004, air conditioning drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, red, 47000 miles, £4500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, S, 2007, abs brakes alarm fitted cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, silver, 22030 miles, £6000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

207, 1.4 URBAN, 2007, abs brakes electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats tonneau cover twin airbags remote central locking, silver, 9235 miles, £7500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

307, S, 2006, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, blue, 42001 miles, £7500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

307, 1.6 HDi 110 S (AC), 2005, abs brakes air con alloy wheels cd player electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls, blue, 40060 miles, £5500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PORSCHE

911, CARRERA, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player climate control electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint power fold mirrors leather interior power steering satellite navigation sports seats trip computer, white, 9000 miles, £67900, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

911, cabriolet 3.6, 2004, silver metallic with black leather, 39000 miles, £24850, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

BOXSTER, S Tiptronic S, 2002, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 52093 miles, £14990, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

BOXSTER, S Tiptronic S, 2002, abs brakes alloys auto transmission cd player central locking climate control cruise control electric windows leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, grey, 52093 miles, £14990, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CAYMAN, 2.7, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player electric windows front fog lights multiple airbags power steering, cobalt blue, 25254 miles, £26000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CAYMAN, 2.7, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player front fog lights multiple airbags power steering, cobalt blue, 25254 miles, £26000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CAYMAN, 2.7, 2007, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player electric windows front fog lights multiple airbags power steering, cobalt blue, 25254 miles, £26000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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Bosses join row over National Insurance hike

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

BUSINESS leaders in Kent have waded into a row about raising National Insurance contributions in 2011, if Labour returns to power after the General Election.

DEBATE: Miles Templeman

But while Kent members of the Institute of Directors (IoD) welcomed the pre-election challenge to Prime Minister Gordon Brown, they also took the Tories to task for belated backing on an issue the institute raised five months ago.

The IoD, which represents some 15,000 business leaders in the southern region, including Kent, has long believed that a National Insurance (NI) hike would harm an already fragile economy.

Chris Dodson, IoD regional chairman, said: "While we welcome the fact that the Conservatives have now decided to support a reversal, they are a little late to the party.

"And, while many leaders of big corporations have also thrown their hats into the ring, this should not detract from the stark truth that a rise in NI payments would be a blow to small and medium-sized businesses."

He quoted a survey of 1,800 IoD members where 76 per cent thought the rise would be negative for the economy, while 43 per cent went as far as saying they might avoid hiring new staff.

The IoD's established stance on boosting recovery and clawing back the UK's mounting debt is cuts to the public sector – contrary to the Government and New Labour position.

Miles Templeman, IoD's director-general and chairman of Faversham brewer Shepherd Neame, said: "A reversal of the NI hike, instead of taking money out of the economy, as some economists and politicians claim, would allow businesses to use those resources to increase investment and create new jobs.

"Clearly we need to get the deficit down quickly, but the way to do that is to grasp the nettle on public sector spending, not with tax hikes on business. Cutting spending involves tough political decisions but these will have to be taken sooner rather than later.

"The narrow debate on NI suggests that most politicians have yet to understand this point, or at least communicate it to voters."

There has been other heavyweight support from leading UK bosses and notably from Marks and Spencer's Sir Stuart Rose, who reckons Labour's NI proposals would cost his company £10m a year and was incensed by Mr Brown's claim that he and senior business leaders had been duped by the Tories' opposition on this issue.

Business news updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Kentish flavour to agreement as Prue cuts tearoom ribbon

RESTAURATEUR and celebrity chef Prue Leith has officially reopened the refurbished Garden Tea Room at historic Penshurst Place.

She also signed a unique agreement between county food quality champion Produced in Kent and Leith's – her catering operation at Penshurst Place since 2003 – expressing a commitment to use local produce.

Leith's has a history of support for local farmers, growers and producers as part of its parent operation, Compass Group's Truly British, Truly Local sourcing initiative. This enables clients to sell produce from suppliers within 50 miles of the site using its Truly Local brand.

Prue said: "We are delighted to continue to build our relationship with Penshurst Place with the refurbishment of this lovely tearoom, and to now take this first step of signing an agreement with Produced in Kent. We look forward to working together to bring more Kentish produce to the menus we deliver to customers."

Produced in Kent's Julie Monkman said its was the first such agreement they had signed, adding: "We look forward to working with Leith's to support this commitment to using more local producers at Penshurst Place."

Viscount De L'Isle, owner of Penshurst, said: "This is hopefully just the beginning of having superlative Kentish produce as key ingredients to what we offer our customers."

CUT ABOVE: Chef Prue Leith reopens the Garden Tea Room at Penshurst Place

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MONEY TALK

By **LIZ RULE**
Pharon Independent Financial Advisers Ltd

Salary exchange worth its salt

ONE way of saving and investing more money – that has been available for a long time but many do not take advantage of – is salary sacrifice.

Increasingly it is being called salary exchange, which is perhaps a better description as the system means you switch salary in exchange for another type of benefit. One method of structuring salary exchange is to give up a certain amount of salary and ask that your employer contributes the money to a pension for you instead.

The main advantage is you can ask your employer to add the National Insurance they would have had to pay HMR&C if it had been paid as salary to the pension contribution amount, as pension contributions do not attract National Insurance.

Sensible

Some employers may have pension schemes which are not flexible and some may not wish to adapt their payroll to accommodate such requests. But by asking, you have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

With both inflation and taxes likely to rise over the coming years, using the tax system to bolster your savings, perfectly legitimately, is a sensible move.

As an example: for an employee earning £24,000 a year, currently paying pension contributions of £100 per month gross, this would mean a deduction of £80 per month net from their bank account from their take-home pay. It results in £1,200 per year saved into the pension.

If that employee switched enough salary to end up with the same take-home pay as when they paid the pension contribution themselves – but instead had the pension contribution paid by their employer – along with National Insurance savings it would result in pension contributions of more than £1,350 a year, which over time will make a difference and for nil cost.

Seek financial advice if this appeals to you, but speak to your employer first to see if they are willing to assist.

Eurostar sales surge

NUMBER CRUNCH: Eurostar's figures added up to a first quarter sales surge after a troubled Christmas period

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

HIGH-speed cross-Channel train operator Eurostar defied economic gloom by posting a five per cent sales surge in the first quarter of this year.

The revenue of £178 million compares with £168m for the same period in 2009, and was shadowed by a passenger rise to two million against early 2009.

However, it was not British and Continental passengers who drove the increase – travellers from overseas markets increased by 22 per cent – although leisure passengers travelling between the UK and the Continent went up by six per cent.

This more than offset a slump in business travel over the past six months and also delivered a psychological boost after Eurostar's much publicised technical problems during pre-Christmas cold weather.

The company had several trains break down in the Channel Tunnel and services were suspended for three days during one of the busiest and most sensitive periods.

The train firm is now attempting a restructure from a partnership between three railway companies – London & Continental Railways and the national rail operators of France and Belgium, SNCF and SNCB – into a single corporate entity.

Eurostar CEO Nicolas Petrovic said: "I am very pleased that we are moving closer to the new corporate structure which will streamline decision-making, deliver consistency of service standards across the three countries and ensure the business is well placed to compete in an open access world."

Eurostar also aims to better integrate its services with other Continental high-speed networks to increase the number of destinations offered.

A trial is under way with SNCF allowing Eurostar passengers to travel to Provence via Lille, using reserved coaches on connecting French TGVs. If customer reaction is positive, Eurostar aims to add other cities.

On the marketing front, a new leisure loyalty scheme has been launched, Eurostar Plus, giving cashbacks to passengers who travel on leisure tickets.

Mr Petrovic said: "While there is still uncertainty about the economic outlook, we have seen a big increase in leisure travel over the last three months, not just from the Continent but from overseas markets.

"We are also seeing growing evidence of travellers wanting to switch from plane to high-speed train for longer, connecting journeys.

"Ensuring our customers can enjoy seamless connections to other destinations on the Continent is a key priority and we are committed to making that experience easy and efficient."

To view, search 'Business' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

KOS Media Business Editor Steve Loader reports on news and views from around the county with his Business for Kent round-up at www.yourkenttv.co.uk

Apex move gets to the point

ABOUT 50 jobs are likely to be created by financial services company Apex Credit Management expanding into Kent.

The move adds more momentum to a positive trend in the finance sector since the start of 2010, said Locate in Kent chief executive Paul Wookey.

"Despite the economic climate, prospects for Kent have remained positive," he said. "Since the beginning of 2010 we have seen seven financial services companies expand in or relocate to Kent, creating 278 new jobs – a testament to the county and what it has to offer.

"We are delighted Apex Credit Management has chosen to expand here and, with its ambitious plans for the future, look forward to its continued growth."

Apex has its headquarters in Stratford-upon-Avon, but its Discovery Solutions division has taken a Regus serviced office at Kings Hill Business Park, near Maidstone, following aid from Mr Wookey's team. The new jobs will arrive over a three-year phase.

Paul Wookey

The company provides credit management, debt collection and debt purchasing services and will run its tracing department from the new Kent office.

Apex spokesman Jamie McGrath said: "Kent is the perfect location for our growing business – it has excellent transport links and is a great catchment area for our highly qualified workforce.

"Since moving into the new office, we have created 20 jobs locally and hope to employ another 20 people in Kent by the end of the year."

GROWTH: Philip MacLauchlan of Toolstation

Powering ahead with promise of new jobs

By **STEVE LOADER**
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

FAST-expanding building product and tools supplier Toolstation has announced an expansion in Kent that will virtually double its presence and create up to 40 jobs.

It has identified Ashford, Gillingham, Rochester, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells as targets for increasing its network of distinctively branded trade counters, joining existing sites in the county at Beckenham, Canterbury, Dartford, Folkestone, Orpington and Sittingbourne.

Toolstation has expanded largely through online and direct call centre sales and these still account for much of its business but, during the last two years, trade counters have added to the company's overall profitability.

Toolstation specialises in a wide range of power and hand tools and light building items, selling to the trade and public.

But it is being quite specific about what's on its own shopping list and is well aware of the growing realism on commercial leases and rents, according to spokesman Philip MacLauchlan. He said: "We require premises of between 4,000 and 8,000 sq ft with car parking and loading facilities.

"We aim to open our new trade counters in a short timescale, so are working fast.

"We are realistic about the rents we will have to pay and our confidence in this market enables us to consider good length leases, including 10-year leases where appropriate incentives are provided."

He added the firm will be creating at least four jobs for each new trade counter and as any many as eight depending on location – all genuinely new recruits.

'Our financial woes due to lack of leadership'

BRITAIN and the world's financial woes have highlighted a lack of leadership in the business arena, according to Kent Business School's Professor Dennis Tourish.

The KBS deputy director of research was speaking after being made a founding fellow of the Leadership Trust Foundation.

The foundation is an educational charitable trust, dedicated to development and enhancement of leadership. The new fellowship celebrates its 35th anniversary and the achievements of people making a significant contribution to the study of leadership over the years.

Prof Tourish said: "This honour reflects the growing awareness that leadership is one of the most pressing business issues faced by most organisations today.

"We have seen with the financial crisis what can go wrong when leadership is poor, too self-interested or insufficiently aware of its wider social obligations.

"I look forward to exploring with the trust and its new fellowship network how leadership can be strengthened and improved in the years ahead."

Prof Tourish joined KBS in October, 2009, and has worked with universities in Australia, Norway and Ireland, and participated in master classes for high-profile business leaders in Scotland.

He has also worked extensively in the public sector and industry and is a sought-after speaker at professional conferences.

He is the co-author or co-editor of seven books on leadership and communication issues, most recently Auditing Organisational Communication.

Prof Dennis Tourish

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Spitfire ace plans two-pronged attack in Battle of Britain year

SPITFIRE Ale – one of historic Faversham brewery Shepherd Neame's most famous brands – has a new marketing manager for its 20th year and the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain.

He is Mark Miller and he plans a two-pronged assault for Spitfire sold in cask and bottle.

"I have two main objectives: to develop a strong national marketing strategy for Spitfire and to target sustained growth," he said.

"This is a landmark year for Spitfire. We've lots of promotions and events planned and are anticipating high demand."

Spitfire was conceived in 1990 as a one-off fund-raiser to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. Twenty years on, it is one of the UK's best-loved independently-produced ales, both in supermarkets and pubs, and continues to raise thousands for RAF and veterans' charities.

Mr Miller said: "We will be promoting cask Spitfire to the on-trade, with a new point-of-sale launch and promotions that will drive consumer uptake. We want to continue to extend Spitfire's permanent listings throughout the UK."

Mr Miller, 34, grew up just a few miles from Faversham, so is no stranger to Shepherd Neame ales and lagers, but his advertising and marketing experience extends way beyond beer, after roles at Toyota GB, Asda, Arcadia Group and Specsavers and well-known brands including Guinness and Smirnoff.

He said: "In 2010, we will be working hard to show licensees that Spitfire is a premium brand with its own unique character, which appeals to the kind of discerning consumers that every successful pub needs.

"We will demonstrate that stocking Spitfire is very good for the bottom line.

"The 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain will also be a great opportunity to promote Spitfire and the World Cup Finals this summer offer an opportunity for all our brands."

MILLER'S ALES: Sheps' new marketing manager Mark Miller with a pint of Spitfire

IoP boosted by research

INVESTORS in People has been lifted by research underlining the benefits of boosting management skills and support, particularly in tough economic times.

The analysis, by Cranfield School of Management, combined case studies, a survey of more than 400 employers and analysis of information from Companies House.

A key finding was how working with the Government-backed IoP increased profitability by enhancing managerial skills, knowledge, experience and effectiveness through all levels.

It also inspired a high-performance management culture and an effective learning environment, both of which help improve business performance.

IoP South East's Trish Fraser said: "Employers take note: effective management at all levels improves business performance, so enhancing management capability will deliver tangible results."

Cranfield's Professor Mike Bourne said: "We had an open mind when we conducted this research, but the evidence is IoP is the foundation of effective management practice and a route to success."

Strategic step in composting acquisition no wasted effort

By STEVE LOADER
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

SIGNS of growth in the recycling sector have been underlined by an acquisition that will consolidate two Kent waste sites.

Countrystyle, a leading waste management company in the South East and operator of a composting plant at Sittingbourne, has acquired organics recycling business TJ Composting, for an undisclosed sum.

The takeover brings four sites but, most notably, TJ Composting's South London facility in Swanley, which has planning permission pending for a 46,000-tonne-a-year anaerobic digestion (AD) facility for environmentally-friendly treatment of food and green waste and generating renewable energy.

Most green and food waste going into the facilities of the new-look company comes from local authority sites and trade material from landscapers, where it is then processed into nutrient-rich compost.

The compost is then supplied to ground maintenance contractors including gardeners, farmers, landscapers and horticulturists, as well as the company's partnership local authorities. TJ Composting MD Charlie Trousdell said: "We recognised some time ago that TJ needed to work with a larger company if it was to develop AD at its sites.

"When Countrystyle approached us with a view to purchase it seemed an ideal fit, especially with Countrystyle's strong presence in Kent and track record in developing organic waste treatment methods."

The move greatly expands the composting side of Countrystyle Group across the region, highlighting its growth through the need to divert waste from landfill and conversion into reusable materials or carbon-efficient energy.

"We are delighted with the acquisition and see this as an important strategic step in our development plan, which has seen the company grow steadily across the South East," said Countrystyle MD Mat Stewart.

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Basepoint's Budget bonus windfall

MANY Basepoint office tenants have enjoyed a windfall saving after the business centre operator changed its billing process due to new measures in the latest Budget.

The tenants' overheads fell due to increased business rates relief announced in the Budget, and Basepoint's pragmatic reaction.

The company's executive director, Brian Andrews, explained: "We changed our all-inclusive licence fee to one excluding business rates, having realised the majority of our customers could be eligible to take advantage of the Government's Small Business Rate Relief Scheme.

"In essence, more than 90 per cent of Basepoint licensees who were benefiting with Small Business Rate Relief will now benefit further, some with no business rates payable from October as the relief potential moves from 50 to 100 per cent."

RATES RELIEF: Basepoint tenants have enjoyed lower overheads

But he admitted there were also long-term benefits for his company, saying: "We envisage a wave of new licensees moving away from traditional business centres with inclusive rent schemes, and into those with rate-exclusive schemes.

"It's a turning point for some of the bigger players in the sector with inclusive-rent schemes. They will now have to rethink their whole rental strategy or face losing out to those with the foresight to be ready for the changes, giving the benefit back to small businesses."

Basepoint specialises in centres for start-up and small to medium-size firms. It has four Kent sites, in Folkestone, Canterbury, Chatham and Northfleet. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the ACT Foundation, a leading grant-making charity to those in need, including the elderly and disabled.

Franchise expansion continues

NATIONWIDE franchise Printing.com has shrugged off the recession and is aiming for expansion in Kent.

Sites in the county and south-east London have grown from one to nine in three years and territory franchisee for the area, Gary Morris, is targeting new ones for Tonbridge, Chatham and Woolwich.

Mr Morris, who set up Printing.com in Orpington five years ago, said: "A bolt-on franchise is a perfect way of boosting business for people like print brokers, digital printers, marketing companies and graphic designers to run in parallel to their business."

SOLICITORS across Kent raised nearly £23,000 for a Will Aid charity event by volunteering their time in return for donations from clients.

The money is still rolling in and has gone towards a fund of more than £1 million generated across the UK during Make a Will Month, from November to December, in aid of nine charities.

Nearly 20 Kent law firms took part – large and small – with major charity generators being Furley Page in Canterbury (£3,235), Hatten Wyatt of Gravesend (£2,610), Pengelly and Rylands of Tenterden (£2,555), Baker Macdonald of Sevenoaks (£2,375) and Buss Murton of Tunbridge Wells (£2,115).

NEW analysis of the charity audit sector has shown that Horwath Clark Whitehill (HCW) – with offices in Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells – holds the UK number one spot.

It follows research by Caritasdata via the latest published accounts of the nation's top 3,000 charities.

HCW not only audits more charity income than any firm, but also audits more major charities and has also added more new clients than any of its rivals.

Ian Weekes, partner at HCW in Kent, said: "Charities are facing new times and new challenges. They recognise the importance of deep sector specialism and the value of working with a firm where the charity sector is an important part of the firm's business.

"This [Caritasdata] analysis follows on from the recent Accountancy Age survey, which listed us as number one for fair fees, and is an endorsement of our approach to invest in developing the largest and fastest growing team of charity auditors."

FUTURE entrepreneurs can experience their own Dragons' Den-style interrogation at an event in Maidstone next month.

Finance South East – the regional funding organisation managing the Kent Investor Club – and the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW), is fielding local high-potential investment opportunities within Kent on May 13, at the Tudor Marriott hotel in Maidstone.

ENTRIES for the South East's most enterprising place must be in by May 31, say organisers of the Enterprising Britain 2010 competition.

Led by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), the competition rewards cities, villages, towns and neighbourhoods that are creating jobs, boosting business and nurturing entrepreneurial talent despite the recession.

Susan Priest of Seeda said: "The Enterprising Britain competition provides the South East with a chance to shout about what the region has achieved and help other organisations and communities to learn from our successes.

"I urge everyone working on innovative projects in the South East that have used entrepreneurial spirit to transform their area to enter."

A regional winner will be chosen in June, with the chance to attend a national final later in the year.

Kent took the regional honours last year with Chatham Historic Dockyard. Chief executive Bill Ferris said: "Winning in 2009 really raised the profile of the Dockyard in its 25th anniversary year, and boosted all the organisations working to regenerate this area."

Enterprising Britain is free to enter. To register interest, email details to enterprisingbritain@enterpriseuk.org.

HOLDING PATTERN: The General Election has led to the deadline for Lydd Airport's referral decision being delayed until June

National poll sees take-off delayed again

AIRPORT chiefs at Lydd have suffered a further setback to their £25 million expansion plans for the Romney Marsh site, ***writes Business Editor Steve Loader***.

The Government Office for the South East (GOSE) originally set a deadline for Thursday, April 22, on whether to refer the proposed new terminal building and runway extension scheme to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

But disappointed airport administrators heard this week that the referral decision had now been deferred until June 11, because of the general election on May 6.

The airport's managing director, Jonathan Gordon, said: "It's regrettable that our multi-million-pound investment plans, which will help boost the economic fortunes of Romney Marsh and create 500 jobs, are on hold again.

"We have already spent more than four years and nearly £2m in painstakingly preparing our applications, which the democratically elected members of Shepway District Council voted overwhelmingly to support at their meeting on March 3, so the prospect of waiting until the summer for a decision is exasperating.

Compelling case

"Despite this, we remain confident that the Secretary of State will agree we have put forward a compelling case for allowing the controlled development of the airport."

After a stormy seven-hour meeting, Shepway council voted by 27 to 12 to allow the construction of a 294-metre runway extension plus a 150-metre starter extension and a new terminal capable of handling up to 500,000 passengers a year.

The airport is currently used mostly by small private aircraft, though there is a regular service to Le Touquet and plans for a similar operation to Jersey from July, but it is a long way from the 1950s and 60s when specially adapted aircraft carried cars and passengers across the Channel to Le Touquet and neighbouring upmarket resorts.

With costs and overheads soaring at London's main airports, Lydd – or London Ashford as the management prefers – hopes it can join other small regional airports operating medium-haul flights, using Boeing 737 and equivalent Airbus aircraft like those operated by Ryanair and EasyJet.

But the scheme has been dogged by protests on environmental and wildlife grounds, while the anti-campaign has also used the site's potentially hazardous proximity to Dungeness nuclear power station as a further support for its arguments.

Copier firm to duplicate turnover in five years

COPIERS and printers specialist KPS Business Solutions has defied the recession and embarked on ambitious expansion.

Underlining a plan to double its £5.5 million a year turnover within five years, the company has relocated from Quarry Wood, Aylesford, to new premises in Maidstone, where it has acquired the freehold of a unit on the Viewpoint business park and trebled its working space.

KPS Business Solutions is one of Konica Minolta's largest dealership partners in the UK and one of only a handful to achieve five-star accreditation status.

Diversify

It sells and maintains digital imaging systems in London and the South East, as well as providing print on demand and copy shop services.

The company also diversified recently into mailroom equipment, including franking machines.

Company MD Mark Burnett said: "We have a clear road map for the company's future based on the customer service ethic that has driven our success to date.

"In the teeth of the worst recession in decades, KPS Business Solutions has continued to grow and prosper because we provide our customers with a service offering that is fast, focused, friendly and flexible."

Timeline

KOS Media sport take a look at the highlights of all the sporting action from the last 100 years

1910 **100 YEARS AGO:** NEW Brompton suffered a spectacular collapse at Fratton Park, when they blew a 3-0 lead to go down 4-3 to Portsmouth.

A crowd of 5,000 gathered at the South Coast club to see Brompton take an early lead, with two goals from Court.

Pickett then made it 3-0, but the momentum shifted when Pompey pulled a goal back before the break. They added a second shortly after the restart and completed a memorable comeback when they converted two late penalties.

Brompton's loss was all the more remarkable given Portsmouth lost a player in the very first minute to injury and had to play the rest of the game with 10 men.

Sittingbourne's hopes of winning the Kent League were dealt a major blow when they lost 2-1 to Royal Navy in their final game of the season.

The Brickies remained top, but Northfleet won two of their games in hand, beating Dartford 1-0 and Chatham 8-0 to close in on the title.

1960 **50 YEARS AGO:** IT was a bad weekend to be a record holder at Brands Hatch.

A crowd of 50,000 saw 10 records set, with Canterbury's Derek Minter smashing three previous best times for motorbikes, including two held by John Surtees in the 500cc and 1,000cc solo scratch events.

David Piper broke Graham Hill's lap record for sports cars, setting a new speed of 76.97mph, 0.53 quicker than Hill, but the main talking point from the meeting was a miraculous escape after a 100mph crash by Chris Steele.

Driving a Lola, Steele clipped an outside verge, span across the track and narrowly missed a host of cars.

He just avoided the starter's box and then scattered pedestrians left and right before finally coming to a halt 120 yards away. Incredibly, nobody was hurt and Steele managed to resume racing.

1985 **25 YEARS AGO:** DAVID Leworthy, who went on to become a prolific target man for Dover Athletic, was named in the starting line-up for Tottenham Hotspur ahead of their North London derby with Arsenal.

The 22-year-old, who had been playing for Fareham in the Southern League the previous season, was preferred to Garth Crooks, who was described as "jaded" by Spurs manager Peter Shreeves.

Leworthy settled well, but Spurs were beaten 2-0, with Charlie Nicholas and Brian Talbot scoring and Graham Roberts missing a penalty.

Tony Cascarino struck the only goal as Gillingham stayed in the hunt for promotion with a 1-0 win at Walsall.

Retiring forward hoping to inspire new breed of Mos

Top scorer sets sights on coaching job

By DAVID PRITCHARD

INVICTA Dynamos' leading points scorer Elliot Andrews hopes to take up a coaching role at the club next season after retiring from playing ice hockey last weekend.

The 35-year-old scored the final goal of the game as the Mos finished their season with a 14-3 win against Oxford City Stars last Sunday. It was the 605th point Andrews had scored in three stints for the Gillingham-based club, which played a key role in a long and successful career.

Although the decision to hang up his skates was made a year ago, the forward, who wants to coach in the club's youth set-up, was surprised by the emotion of the occasion.

He said: "It caught me off guard and it was quite overwhelming by the end of the evening. I had a lot of friends and family there and the reception the fans gave me was absolutely amazing. I leave with no regrets whatsoever, one of the things I was conscious of was making sure I went out on a high.

"I'm looking forward to taking some time off and enjoying the summer, rather than spending it in the gym.

"I'll sit down and have a chat with [head coach] Kevin Parrish and see what opportunities there are, but if I can get involved with one of the kids' teams for the start of next season, that would be great."

It would bring Andrews' association with the Mos full circle. The Rochester player joined the club at nine but quickly made progress, going on to play for England at youth level.

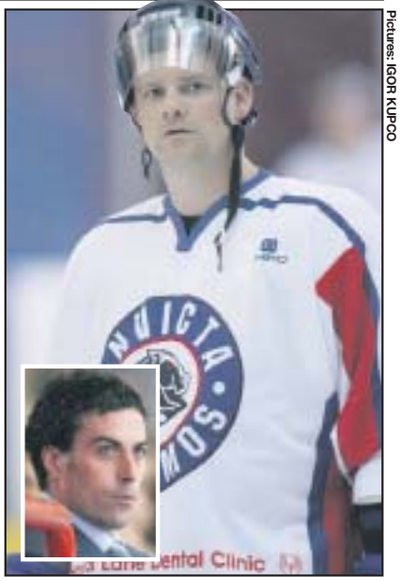
The talented forward left while still a junior, moving to Romford before signing professional forms in the North East with top-flight outfit Billingham Bombers.

Spells at several other clubs followed before Andrews was brought back to the fledgling Mos, then playing in the English Premier League.

A highly successful spell followed, but Andrews left when the Mos dropped down to the National League. Mixed stints, disrupted by injury, at Romford and Chelmsford followed, leading Andrews to return to the Mos for the twilight of his playing career, helping them to three successive league titles.

Parrish, a former team-mate of Andrews at Guildford Flames, praised the veteran's influence.

He said: "Elliot has been outstanding, he will be missed. For me he's been a backbone, and when I've had problems I have always asked his advice. He's definitely made the right decision to go out on a high."



Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

FRESH START: Elliot Andrews will talk to Kevin Parrish (inset) about a coaching role

Course boosts referee trio's league credentials

PREMIER League coaching sessions are beginning to make an impact on the county's refereeing standards, with three officials promoted to the Football League for next season

After performing well in the higher reaches of non-league football, Darren Blunden from Dartford, Gillingham's Paul Kelly and Stuart Butler from Maidstone, will officiate as assistant referees in the professional game from August.

The Kent FA has prioritised recruiting and retaining referees as part of the nationwide Respect programme.

Part of their strategy has been to hold weekly training sessions led by Martin Yerby and Ian Gosling, experienced assistant referees in the top flight.

John Newson, Kent FA's referee development officer, believes it has made an impact.

HIGH STANDARD: (l-r) Darren Blunden, Stuart Butler and Paul Kelly will officiate at Football League level

He said: "I'm absolutely delighted to have three come through together. If you look at some other counties over the last few years, Kent has probably not done as well as it should, but it's really starting to come good.

"I'm indebted to people like Yerby and Gosling and [Premier League referee] Steve Bennett, who gets involved."

It is 14 years since Kelly began officiating in Ashford parks, but he is now hoping to progress and run the line in the Premier League within four years. The 33-year-old felt the weekly interaction with elite officials had been a huge help.

He said: "They are a really key part in driving the development of referees at each level in Kent, I can't remember the last time three came through at the same time."

The trio's final hurdle before officially becoming Football League officials comes later this month when they are put through a rigorous fitness test.

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Facilities pass test with flying colours

Modern pentathlon chiefs' praise for championship venue

By DAVID PRITCHARD

PENTATHLON GB are planning to set up a permanent presence at Medway Park after the venue successfully staged a World Cup series event last weekend.

The four-day competition was the first test for the £11 million facility, which was completed last month. The feedback from the international teams was positive, with Dr Klaus Schormann, president of the International Union of Modern Pentathlon, describing it as a "special destination" during his closing speech last Sunday.

Jan Bartu, Pentathlon GB's performance director, was delighted with the event and received glowing compliments from many of his counterparts.

"I'd like to say the organisation has been immaculate and has been recognised by all the international athletes and coaches," he said. "In a way I think it actually superseded last year's Crystal Palace World Championships.

"I was approached by a number of colleagues from other countries who were very complimentary. They were actually saying this is like an Olympic set-up, that's how highly they rate it and how all of us feel about it."

Pentathlon GB are now hoping to stage a junior international event at Medway Park next year as a result of last weekend's successes.

The ties are set to be further strengthened with a development centre established at the venue within the next 12 months. Under the plans, fencing and shooting facilities would be set up and a full-time development officer provided to run the programme.

Dominic Mahony, Pentathlon GB team leader, believes once in place it would boost the sport's profile across the county.

He said: "There were three athletes from Kent in the World Cup and once we have the centre up and running there's no reason why there shouldn't be more.

"There's lots of knowledge here within the set-up about what pentathlon is, which is fantastic. We'll provide the coaching support and the technical input and let's hope there are lots of Medway kids coming through in the future. It's planned for this year, but certainly within the next 12 months."

Pictures: IGOR KUPCO

BIG LEAP: Team GB's Katy Livingstone in showjumping action at Medway Park last week

Olympic teams eye up Medway Park

MEDWAY Park is attracting interest from a significant proportion of countries looking for training camps ahead of the 2012 London Olympics.

Portugal's gymnastics and trampolining squad, plus the Barbados Paralympic squad, have already signed deals to use the revamped venue leading up to the Games.

More are expected to follow, with about 40 national Olympic associations considering Medway Park as a possible venue.

Robin Cooper, director of regeneration at Medway council, said: "There's a lot of interest, I think there's only 160 countries in the world, so to get 40 expressing an interest is great.

"A number of them have been round already so I'm sure we'll see some other countries come here which is just great, it's all about getting us on the map."

Robin Cooper, director of regeneration at Medway council, was very pleased with the World Cup, which formally opened Medway Park. He is looking to build on the success with bigger events in the future and is keen on the modern pentathlon development centre.

He said: "We've shown you can have a horse riding in the middle, we've shown we can have pistol shooting here safely, so if we can develop some of these as full-time sports we'd be really happy to look at it.

"The hall takes 12 badminton courts, so in terms of having a major event and having seating around it, something like a boxing match, we could have 2,000-3,000 people sitting in there. We're looking for any ideas at the moment, but the potential is enormous."

Stup's up for Euro cup bid

Picture: ADY KERRY

DEBUT: Karen Stupples is making her first European Nations Cup appearance

KAREN Stupples believes England have a chance of victory as she makes her debut at the European Nations Cup next week.

The 36-year-old teams up with rising star Melissa Reid at the third edition of the annual event, which is growing in importance every year. England are up against teams from 17 other countries in a strong field which includes Scotland's Catriona Matthew and Anna Nordqvist from Sweden, who both won majors last year.

The four-day tournament begins on Thursday and will be Stupples' first competitive appearance since finishing fifth at the Kraft Nabisco Championship in California earlier this month. The Deal-born golfer is relishing the chance to represent her country and is confident of contending at the top of the leaderboard.

She said: "It'll be lovely. I'm really excited about it because Melissa is a great player. I think it'll be a lot of fun and we stand a really good chance."

The tournament in Spain is Stupples' first outing on the Ladies European Tour this season. Based in Florida, the world number 50 spends the majority of her time on the LPGA Tour in North America, but is planning to spend more time in Europe this year compared to previous seasons.

Disrupted

Stupples intends to fly over in July to play four successive tournaments, including the British Open and the Wales Ladies Championship of Europe, which she won last year.

After having last season disrupted by appendicitis and a problem with veins in her legs, Stupples believes the experience has helped her re-focus and she is now looking forward to a successful season.

She said: "The whole year last year was a bit of a disaster, it was just one hit after another. Maybe I needed a kick up the butt to say to myself 'shape up, sort yourself out, you're better than this, work and see how far you can go'.

"That's where I am at the moment, I'm putting in the work and the effort."

Camier up to pace – now he must finish

TWO retirements would often spell a bad weekend for most superbike riders, but Leon Camier believes his performance at Valencia last week sent a message to his rivals.

The World Superbike rider left the third round of the championship in Spain without any points after two accidents, but led a world championship race for the first time in his short career.

The 23-year-old from Ashford had mixed emotions at the third round of the series after falling in the first race while battling with the lead group, then leading in the second race before an uncharacteristic error.

"I think some of the riders have questioned what I am all about," he said. "Obviously they know what I did last year, but this is a step up. We are getting closer to where we want to be with every meeting and while I don't have a real result to be proud of so far this year, I am learning all the time and we're getting closer to the front."

Camier's close friend and world superbike rival, Shane Byrne from Sheppey, also had a mixed weekend. A retirement from race one was followed with a solid eighth place in the second race to help him move above Camier in the championship standings.

The pair head to Assen in the Netherlands for the fourth round of the World Championship next Sunday.

ERRORS: Leon Camier crashed in both races in Valencia

Racer aims to Steele limelight in new team

PROMISING Kent driver Aaron Steele has signed to race in the 2010 Formula Palmer Audi Championship in a deal that will see him compete for a scholarship prize worth £100,000.

The 21-year-old from Chatham, who has struggled to find funding, could win a fast-track graduation to the 2011 FIA Formula Two Championship, should he win the series.

Steele, a British Racing Drivers' Club Rising Star, said: "I'm thrilled to have secured a full-time drive for 2010 and FPA will provide me with an excellent environment in which to prove myself and progress my career.

"This is a tough championship and I'll be following in the footsteps of some great drivers, so I'm determined to give everything to win a place in Formula Two."

The FPA season gets under way on the Brands Hatch Indy circuit on May 8 and finishes at Silverstone in mid-October.

FREE VIEW: Clip of Danny Spiller on YouTube

Ex-Gills star using YouTube highlights to attract new club

AWAY from the wealth of the Premier League, the summer can be a stressful time for professional footballers, with hundreds released by clubs after finishing their contracts.

Competition to find a new club can be intense, so former Gillingham midfielder Danny Spiller is taking a 21st century approach to give him an edge.

Picture: KEITH SLATER

CLIPPED: Spiller

The 28-year-old's contract at League Two side Dagenham & Redbridge expires at the end of the season.

With no new deal yet on the table, Spiller has taken matters into his own hands by uploading an eight-minute highlights package on to YouTube – the video sharing website – earlier this month.

"I've had a great response already," he said. "It's had almost 1,000 hits and people have contacted me as a result.

"I've been lucky in my career to have a rolling contract or offers from other clubs, but last year it got a bit sticky at times looking for a club. It's not a great time because there are a lot of players in your situation.

"I just thought I would prepare and try to be one step ahead. It's all well and good sending someone a CV, but these days people like to see what you're about.

"If you can show them some clips it's easier to get your foot in the door. I think more and more players will end up doing it."

Spiller, who lives in Beckenham, is open to a move overseas and has already had contact from clubs in the United States and Australia.

'Psycho' workshop for clubs' coaches

LEGENDARY England international Stuart Pearce visits Kent on Monday to deliver a three-hour coaching workshop at Dartford's Princes Park ground.

The left-back, knicknamed 'Psycho' will concentrate on forward runs from midfield. More than 60 grassroots county club coaches, who work with both youth and adult players, are expected to attend.

LEGEND: Pearce

The session starts at 6.30pm and finishes at 9.30pm.

A former England captain, Pearce enjoyed a long and distinguished career as a player. He also skippered Nottingham Forest before retiring as a player in 2002, by which time he was playing for Manchester City.

He remained with the club as coach before being appointed manager in 2005.

He is presently in charge of the England Under-21 side, becoming an integral part of manager Fabio Capello's support team.

Fleet vice-chaiman's resignation down to 'naive' online owners

By TONY HUDD

TROUBLED Ebbsfleet United's problems have been compounded by the shock resignation of vice-chairman Roly Edwards, just nine months into the job.

In tendering his resignation to chairman Duncan Holt he said he had taken the decision in protest at the way website owners MyFootballClub were running the Fleet.

A local boy and Fleet fan since his father took him to see an FA Cup tie against Sunderland in 1964, he said he could not stomach watching the club decline.

In a stinging broadside aimed at MyFootballClub, he insisted: "They have put together a model that simply doesn't work.

"Everything at the club was fine when we had 20,000 to 30,000 subscribers.

"But those numbers have since dwindled to a fraction of what they were."

He believes the club's best course of action would be to start the search for new investors.

"The job of getting new investors involved should have started long ago," he said.

"The club is crying out for new investment, but things have been allowed to drift. Positive action needs to be taken, but nothing is being done.

"Yes, I resigned in protest because of the way the club was being run. It's not that I couldn't cope with the challenge of being vice-chairman, but I was banging my head against a brick wall, and so were others.

"It's a sad day because I love the club, but the supporters need to be made aware."

It is not the first time Edwards has resigned from a position at the club. He previously stepped down in June last year as secretary, citing budget cuts and the decision to release former assistant manager Alan Kimble following MyFootballClub's decision to slash the wage bill.

Pictures: DAVE PLUMB

TOUGH CHOICE: Roly Edwards' decision to leave has saddened Fleet boss Liam Daish

Foolish

He said then what he is saying now, protesting over the way the club is being run.

"I was getting frustrated with how long it took for things to happen," he said.

"There are a lot of good people at MyFC doing a lot of good work, but I do feel they have been naive.

"The whole concept is still evolving. It would be foolish not to fear for the club's future."

Fleet chairman Duncan Holt was unavailable for comment, but manager Liam Daish said: "I'm sorry to see Roly go, but the sheer frustration got to him.

"Roly has been around this club for more than 15 years so he is fully entitled to have his say."

Darts' boss wants to saviour that winning feeling… for time being

MANAGER Tony Burman vowed to enjoy each and every one of Dartford's remaining fixtures before turning his attention to Conference football next season, ***writes Tony Hudd***.

Burman, who looked on with pride as his runaway leaders clinched the Ryman Premier title in style with last weekend's spectacular 6-2 eclipse of second-placed Kingstonian, confessed he had not enjoyed the club's previous promotion from Ryman North.

He said: "This time I made a conscious decision to enjoy every last second of winning the title because it was all down to us.

"We did it with six games to spare, which is a feat in itself.

"No sooner had we won the title than I was being asked about breaking up the squad, bringing in new players and would we survive in Conference South?

"My answer to all those questions is decisions will be made after our annual presentation night in two weeks.

"In the meantime I just want everyone at the club to enjoy the moment, safe in the knowledge the title is ours and we'll have silverware in the cabinet at the season's end."

Picture: CAROL WHITE-GRIFFITHS

PRIZE GUYS: Dartford secured Premier title

Darts' season saw them rise to the top on the first Tuesday of the season and they were never caught. In fact they did not lose a game until November 28.

The rout of Kingstonian was their 15th win in 17 games on the road.

Asked for his abiding recollection of such a memorable season, Burman said: "I think the football we played at the start of the season as we embarked on that unbeaten run.

"At times I thought it was out of this world. Not only were we beating teams tipped for title contention, but they were well-beaten."

For Darts' co-chairman, Dave Skinner, promotion to Conference South is especially poignant.

Thirty-six years ago on Tuesday, the club reached the FA Trophy final at Wembley where they lost 2-1 to Morecambe.

It was the start of a downward spiral that saw the club lose their Watling Street ground, forcing them on the road for 13 years.

In that time they lodged with Welling, Cray, Erith & Belvedere, Thurrock (twice), nearby Gravesend and Barking.

Skinner and a handful of fellow directors showed resilience beyond the call of duty in keeping the club going amid constant speculation that survival was impossible.

He confessed: "There was a time when we thought we would be cruel to be kind and fold the club. But thanks to directors digging deep into their pockets, aided by the loyalty of our fantastic supporters, we somehow kept going.

"We said all along that our ambition was to reach the Conference and we've done that.

"But while we enjoy these long overdue good times, we can't forget the bad."

Overseas stars are getting hard to find

Kent head coach Paul Farbrace speaks to sports editor GLENN PEARSON about the county club's pursuit of a new international bowler and why it has become difficult to sign an overseas player for a whole season

THE recruitment of overseas cricketers has become a minefield for county clubs with international and Indian Premier League (IPL) schedules denying them the chance to sign a player for a whole season.

Long gone are the days of an overseas pro putting in a shift over a whole summer with a county – instead clubs are having to look at several players for short spells during a season as they navigate their way around international and IPL timetables.

At Kent, head coach Paul Farbrace and skipper Rob Key sensibly identified their two targets for the season and then signed them on contracts months before the beginning of the summer. While in essence that is a good way to go about things, the nature of international cricket, coupled with other high-profile tournaments, means inevitably circumstances change.

Last year Kent signed Stuart Clark, but later had to look elsewhere because he was called up for Australia during the county season. Ahead of this season, Clark again signed for Kent, but this time he declared he wouldn't be fit enough to last the three months of his contract and Farbrace has been looking for a replacement ever since.

A new overseas bowler has now been identified and signed, again before the start of the season, but then comes the next brick wall to navigate around – the work permit. Farbrace has been putting the hard yards in behind the scenes to get the player in and provide Key with options on the field, particularly with Kent having such limited numbers in the bowling department.

TARGETS: Kent coach Paul Farbrace says new overseas bowler will be worth the wait if all goes to plan Picture: ADY KERRY

Exciting

It's hoped the county will know whether they have been successful either way towards the end of next week, with the championship game against Lancashire at Old Trafford on April 27 the cut-off period – as far as Kent are concerned.

"We are still working to the Lancashire away game but if it was reduced from that then maybe it wouldn't be as an exciting proposition," he said. "All the time he is available for four or five championship games, it's worth doing.

"I'm working hard with people in India and elsewhere to make it happen.

"It is a tough process and I understand why it is there, but it does make it difficult to bring people in. There is a lot of trust with people you are working with and I'm sure my phone bill will be high this month, but it will be worth it if we get him in."

The emergence of the IPL and the seemingly insatiable thirst for Twenty20 cricket means it's the cricketers that now hold all the cards. They can pick and choose where, and perhaps more importantly, which competitions they want to play in and invariably it revolves around the 20-over format.

While recruiting an overseas player at Kent has occupied a great deal of Farbrace's time over the last couple of months, he feels the experience and influence an international import can bring to a club makes it worthwhile.

"I like the idea of having overseas players in all forms of the game because not only is it good for members and spectators to watch, it's also good for the players," he said. " You can look back in the past at county cricket and say a lot of players have benefited from the overseas player. When Martin van Jaarsveld first came to Kent he had only just finished playing Test cricket and his work ethic is a plus for everyone at the club."

Yet while T20 cricket reigns supreme, county clubs such as Kent may in the near future find themselves only having overseas players available for limited overs cricket, which would force them to recruit, and play, just local talent in the county championship.

It's something Farbrace believes could happen in the future.

He said: "The difficult thing for championship cricket is players can earn a fortune playing T20 cricket around the world – and obviously IPL is a big thing – so if you can earn huge amounts in six weeks playing T20 cricket, why would you want to spend three months charging in bowling fast day in, day out here?

"I can understand them not wanting to do that, and if you are not going to get the best there may come a time where you say 'let's just have them for T20 cricket and let's focus on our own boys for championship cricket'. I wouldn't be against that, I don't think that's a problem."

New book a warts and all tale of Kent

AS TITLES go, Trophies and Tribulations has a distinctly accurate ring for a book covering the fortunes of Kent County Cricket Club over the past four decades.

Written by journalists Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell, the book purports to be the first account of Kent's glorious, and more recently inglorious, years told from the viewpoint of the men who were there.

The authors have assembled an impressive cast of interviewees, including every living captain from the era and a host of players and coaches.

Pennell said: "A few books have been written about that period, but this is the first written through the eyes of the players, with the benefit of hindsight to a certain extent."

Ellis, a Kent supporter once of the Daily Telegraph, wrote the first two sections of the book, detailing the club's golden era from 1967 to 1978 and the wilderness years to 1992.

GRIPPING ACCOUNT: New book charts the history of Kent from 1967 to the present day

Pennell, who began covering Kent in 1993, tackles the period up to the present day.

"One brilliant thing was the honesty of the players," Pennell said. "They were open and forthright. During my period one of the most controversial episodes was when Mark Ealham left, but looking back at it he's older and wiser and sees the bigger picture."

The poisonous dressing room split in 2004, when there was an open revolt against acting captain Ed Smith, leading to chairman Mike Denness' resignation, also features.

Trials and Tribulations is launched this Thursday at Waterstone's in Rose Lane, Canterbury, starting at 7pm.

Dallas prepared to go the distance in bid for title shot

UNBEATEN heavyweight fighter Tom Dallas pulls no punches when it comes to assessing his boxing future, ***writes Mick Watkins.***

The 24-year-old from Chatham has designs on a future Southern Area title fight, but first must find his way past Tyne and Wear's Dave Ferguson at the Goresbrook Leisure Centre in Dagenham on May 14.

The former ABA amateur finalist, who works as a roofer outside the ring, said: "I'm 13 in the British rankings, he's at number 11, so if I beat him I move up and am close to the top-10. I've also been told if I beat Ferguson I'm in line for a shot at the Southern Area title."

The Ferguson fight is over six rounds but Dallas says he is in condition to go further after tough sparring sessions with John McDermott, and earlier WBA heavyweight champion David Haye before the Bermondsey man fought giant Nicolai Valuev.

"I was surprised at how small he was, but he's so quick and a great counter-puncher who's difficult to hit," Dallas said. "When we sparred he was on the back foot all the time, but if you throw a punch and miss, he'll counter your one punch with five. And he hits hard too.

"So far most of my fights have only gone a round or two, but the kind of sparring I've been doing gives me confidence because I know I can fight flat out over the distance if I need to."

Outside the ropes, Dallas also turns out for Gravesend Rugby Club and last Saturday took to the field for the last game of the season for the first XV, who have won promotion to National 3 South East. However, from now on, boxing gloves will take precedence over the oval ball.

"That was my last game for a while," he said. "Now I'm on the verge of moving up in the British rankings, I'm concentrating on boxing. Rugby's great but if I get injured all my boxing training goes out of the window."

So the future is very much in Dallas' hands and over the next year his aim is to gatecrash the top-10 of the British heavyweight rankings.

HEAVYWEIGHT AMBITION: Tom Dallas is hoping for a shot at the Southern Area title if he wins his next fight

Picture: ADY KERRY

Stimson calls for Hartlepool points penalty

GILLINGHAM manager Mark Stimson has called for Hartlepool United to be hit with a points penalty after they fielded an ineligible player earlier this month.

Gary Liddle played 90 minutes in Hartlepool's 2-0 win against Brighton on Easter Monday, but the midfielder should have been suspended after picking up his 10th booking of the season two days earlier.

The Football Association has charged both the player and club under rule E10 – failure to comply with a decision of the association. Both have until April 26 to respond.

Chris Turner, United's director of sport, has protested the club's innocence and told local reporters he hoped "common sense prevails".

A points penalty is a possibility, and with Hartlepool beginning the weekend four points ahead of the Gills, if enforced it would bring Turner's side back into the League One relegation scrap.

Stimson did not play Curtis Weston, who had nine bookings for the season, at Millwall last weekend to avoid the risk of a two-game ban. He feels a deduction is the only just option.

"We could have had [Weston] get 10 bookings, played him and then said after the event 'oh, I'm sorry, but thanks for the three points'. That can't be right, can it?," he said.

"There's no way they can keep the points – they played a player who was suspended. They have done something wrong and unfortunately they've got to take the punishment. The only punishment I can see which would be fair for everybody is to take the three points off them."

Stimson, however, doesn't believe there was anything sinister about Hartlepool's actions.

He said: "I just think it's been a bad mistake. Unfortunately someone's made a big boob, that's why I'm lucky we have a fantastic secretary in Gwen [Poynter]. I try and keep track of everything but she is bang on the button. I think that's why she's been employed at the club for so many years, there's not a lot that gets past her."

VALID POINT: Mark Stimson says fielding an ineligible player merits points deduction

ROBBIE SET TO RETURN

Kent paceman set to play after shoulder injury hell

LONG-TERM INJURY: Dislocated shoulder has kept Robbie Joseph out of action for 11 months Picture: ADY KERRY

By **GLENN PEARSON**

FAST bowler Robbie Joseph is in line to make a comeback for next week's LV= County Championship clash against Yorkshire after almost 11 months on the sidelines.

Joseph's return to spearhead the Kent attack will be a major boost after the county were able to field just two senior seamers in Amjad Khan and Azhar Mahmood for the championship game at Nottinghamshire, which ends today.

The 28-year-old sent down just 150 overs in all competitions last season after dislocating his shoulder fielding in two separate games at the beginning of the summer.

The second, in a Twenty20 game against Surrey at the Brit Oval in June, spelt the end of Joseph's season and it was decided towards the end of the summer that he would go under the knife.

The Antiguan-born quick reported back for pre-season and was able to bowl in the nets at St Lawrence, but suffered a setback over Christmas when he felt soreness in the shoulder.

A trip to the Caribbean where he worked with club physio Nimmo Reid has helped and put him in with a chance of playing in Kent's first home game of the season against Yorkshire, starting on Wednesday.

With Simon Cook (side strain) and Dewald Nel (back) also missing the trip to Trent Bridge, head coach Paul Farbrace is hopeful all three seamers will be available next week, but he also warned Joseph would not be rushed back too quickly.

"He is not far away, but it is a long season and we don't want to rush him in too soon," he said. "We are not setting a time on it because we don't want to set him back on his recovery."

Joseph is champing at the bit to get back involved in the side, but is aware it has to be the right time as a recurrence of the old injury could prove costly.

He said: "I'm hoping to be closer but it all depends on how my shoulder reacts to bowling. It's all down to whether I can bowl 40 overs in a game when needed, because seven or eight overs isn't going to cut it. You have to be prepared for the hard work and do it properly.

"It doesn't help the team that I am injured, but if I come back and it still isn't right, then it doesn't help them either."

On paper Kent's new ball bowling attack with Joseph lining up alongside Amjad Khan is potentially one of the best in the division. They played just once together last season before Joseph limped out of the defeat to Essex at Tunbridge Wells in June with injury, but feels they showed enough there to give cause for optimism.

"We have worked very well together in the past," he said. "The good thing about us is that we are different; I bring bounce and he is skiddy. It works and having something different means we are going to cause problems. I just want to get out there and compete and getting to the top of my game. When I come back I want to be ready and better than before."

Kent take on Yorkshire at St Lawrence in the championship on Wednesday, play starts at 11am.

• ***For news and a report from the game against Notts, visit www.kentnews.co.uk.***

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